Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY (8 7 8 7 8 7)
French traditional carol, 17th century
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1926
Unison

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;
   For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, all the faithful His own self for heav’nly food.
   In the body and the blood, He will give to hell may vanish As the dark-ness clears a way, Al - le - lu - ia.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its van-guard sleep-less eye, Veil their faces to the presence,
   From the realms of endless day, That the pow’rs of Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

4. At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cher - u - bim with light descendeth
   As with cease-less voice they cry: Al - le - lu - ia,
   Our full homage to demand. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!