## John Webber

six poems from John Butler's


For voice and small orchestra

202007

# John Butler Destined to joy, Mystic verses, Part I 

1 (Mystic verses no 20)
A sign, outward and visible Of grace, inward and spiritual So says the catechistic Church Of sacramental ritual.

Is Jesus Christ in Biblical
Ecclesiastic terms thereby A presence more or less with us Than, say, a peaceful hour beside The river watching ducks - a field Of joy, a grateful heart fulfilled, A sudden burst of tears, released
To inexplicable, unbounded peace?
2 (3)
Hasty living, hastened by
Gives little chance to satisfy
Too much to do. But common sense
To listen, look, here, now, present,
Connects with One holy Presence
Of life complete. Disunity
It's clear to see, is born of absent
Mindedness. An "Outer Dark",
Where restless thought and feeling play
Havoc with imaginary dreams
Of separation, deprivation -
So it seems, until, once more
In God they disappear.
They are not there. They never were.
Light shines, but darkness turns away.
It always has. It must do so
To stay - safeguard its works and pay
The wages $\sin$ has earned,
Which death will bring one day.
Alarm bells sound, we weigh
The choice, but turn back round,
Preferring life - the "human" way.
So we are given glimpses and insights of higher, heavenly being until again pulled down to where what's left of life is a long process of trying to live up to it. We cannot do much ourselves but calling on the Lord has power to lift us up. When lifted, close association lifts the world. Such is the work of prayer.

3 (53)
Incomparable happiness
Arose when passing by
A dandelion and bumble bee
Beneath an April sky -
A bird flown past some windblown grass,
A stick, miraculously there
In natural simplicity
Bore witness to Divinity's
Incalculable care.
Beyond this freely granted span
Of simple knowing, what profits man
To follow foreign news reports
Which stir up michief, to distort
His natural content and tempt
Desire to seek, the mind to roam
And take attention far away
From understanding what is meant
By "Charity begins at Home"?
Charity? Where can it be
More practical than present here?
Is God, most merciful, more actively
Disposed by my desire to share,
Or interfere,
Usurping purpose over there?
Or does self-sacrificial prayer
Remove the block to see and hear
The stones beneath our feet declare
"To serve the whole, be wholly here"?
For charity is ever near
At home whenever heart is
Purified and party to
The undivided holy ground
Of spiritual sight and sound,
Abundantly confirming Scripture's
"Much availeth righteous prayer",
Becoming ever more aware
Of Grace providing - everywhere.
4 (19)
We saw deer on our walk today A moment's glimpse - not far away Look, look! Up there. They didn't stay
So we stood still, upon trail,
Below the bank, beneath the wood

That reaches up above the dale.
Beyond a fringe of wall, white flash
Of shaken tail against dark trees. One, three, four maybe
We saw. Enough. Just quietly thrilled
Woodpecker, too. A warm spring day -
First one without a hat. Waiting, smiling, Sweetly reminded of wild,
Secret, modest contrast while
Bright anoraks and talkers passed
Before - unhurried on our way
To rabbits, squirrels, lambs at play
And, we thought, perhaps - a mouse.
Thank God, man passes. May the wild
Still last.
5 (66)
"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy on me, a sinner".
This, my companion mantra, prayer Becomes so deeply inwardly
Instilled, transcended, to be hardly there Until remembered,
Subconsciously returning when
Required to be repeated -
Serving every need, it, undefeated,
Never fails to bring the best of
Influence to bear upon a situation -
Offering, less obligation,
Spiritual salvation.
Sublimated, nonetheless,
The mental structure of the prayer
Provides a background of belief
To steer mind through to depths beneath

Religious name and form, and there, Behold, fulfillment by -
Lost sheep, now reconnected, found In life complete. The world's defeat. God's rediscovered Holy Ground.

Practice perfects.
Moment by moment, hours at a time, Anyhow, anywhere - God the prime
Mover for taking me over,
Occupies the space vacated, Divinising, reinstating One for all, truth resurrected, Sin's perversity corrected,proved By other variants removed.

6 (30)
How does one pray?
The question makes me smile How do swimmers speak to water?
River watchers pause a while
To ponder what they ought to do?
How does one stroke a dog, or Contemplate a well loved view?
Receive a blessing from the sun, Relax with gratitude - work done?

Why spoil an honest day with doubt When common sense would keep it out?
Is God not present, here and now, Accessible to fools and children who Have not begun to question how?
Don't try to solve the world, my dear, Stay innocent. Beware
Of those who complicate your prayer.

## Orchestra:

Flute, oboe, clarinet (Bb \& A), bassoon,
horn,
timpani,
voice,
strings

Durata circa 30 minutes
Score printed in C

## for John Butler with thanks Mystic Songs

 six poems from John Butler's Mystic verses, Part IA sign, outward and visible



> 1. A sign, outward and visible

Fl

Ob

Cl
18 a tempo

Bs

Hn




A sign,
out-ward and vi-si-ble

V1




1. A sign, outward and visible

2. A sign, outward and visible

Tp



V1
v2


1. A sign, outward and visible To Pc

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs

Hn


Tp


Vc

there-by A pre-sence more or less with us Than, say,


1. A sign, outward and visible

a peace - ful hour be-side The ri-ver, wat - ching ducks -




Tp




1. A sign, outward and visible

Fl


Tp



V1

V2


1. A sign, outward and visible

2. A sign, outward and visible


a peace - ful hour be-side The ri-ver wat-ching ducks -






3. A sign, outward and visible


4. A sign, outward and visible

rall. $\qquad$



$$
\text { 1. A sign, outward and visible } 25
$$

Fl
Ob


Vc


——

V1
137
Andante $d=80$
V2



Tp


V1

V2

2.

## Hasty living

Con moto $=120$



Tp


Has - ty liv - ing, has - tened by Gives lit - tle chance to sa - tis - fy



Tp


Too much to do.

V1

V2

2. Hasty living

2. Hasty living
Fl
Ob
Cl



V1
17
V2

|  | 9\% |  | - | - |
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| 0 - | $\longrightarrow$ |  |  |  |
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Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs

Hn


Tp


V1

V2


2. Hasty living



2. Hasty living

2. Hasty living



2. Hasty living


Vc
God they dis - ap - pear.

2. Hasty living

Tp


V1
V2

2. Hasty living




but dark - ness turns a - way.


2. Hasty living



2. Hasty living

Fl





2. Hasty living


2. Hasty living

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs



Vc


V1




Vc

sound,
A - larm bells sound,



Tp


Vc
(2):

V1


Ob




V1

2. Hasty living


Tp




Tp
 un - til a-gain pulled' down to where what's left of life is a long

2. Hasty living

Fl

p


117

Vc

2. Hasty living



133
Vc

V1
133
V2


DB


2. Hasty living

3.

3. Incomparable happiness


3. Incomparable happiness


3. Incomparable happiness

Fl


Tp


Vc


V1

3. Incomparable happiness


Tp


## V1



3. Incomparable happiness


Fl


Tp



V1

3. Incomparable happiness

Fl


V1


3. Incomparable happiness


Fl


Tp


V1

V2



3. Incomparable happiness


3. Incomparable happiness
Fl
Ob
Cl






3. Incomparable happiness


3. Incomparable happiness





4.

a tempo d=120


4. We saw deer


4. We saw deer



4. We saw deer


33

4. We saw deer




Fl


V1

V2

4. We saw deer




4. We saw deer


V1


Fl


Tp


day -

First one with - out a hat.

V2

4. We saw deer

4. We saw deer



89
Vc


Vc

DB

4. We saw deer

$\mathrm{Vc} \stackrel{2}{96}$




Tp



4. We saw deer

4. We saw deer



4. We saw deer
115
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn

p

V1
(6) be
Vc
DB

4. We saw deer

Fl




To rab-bits, squir-rels,

V1
139

V2

Va

Vc


Fl
145

Ob

Cl



lambs at play per-haps a mouse. per - haps a mouse. And, we thought, per - haps -

V1





4. We saw deer




13
This, my com $-\mathrm{pa}-\mathrm{ni}-\mathrm{on}$
a tempod $=109$

V1


p

v2

Va

5. Lord Jesus Christ


p






- pea - ted - Ser - ving eve - ry need, it, un - de - fea - ted,

Fl

Tp

Ne-ver fails to bring the best of In - flu - ence to bear up -
V1
V2





5. Lord Jesus Christ


Sub-li-ma-ted, none - the - less, The




Ob
Fl

Cl



Vc

there, Be-hold
ful - fil - ment by -




v2



world's de - feat.

V1
v2



112 a tempo $d=109$
Fl

| 112 a tempo $d=109$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 52 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |  |  |
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| E |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ppp |

Tp

112
80
84
112 a tempo d= 109


## 5. Lord Jesus Christ

122

Fl


Tp


Fl


Tp


v2

Va


## 5. Lord Jesus Christ


a - ny - where - God the prime Mo - ver for tak - ing me
0 - ver,




5. Lord Jesus Christ





Fl

Ob


Tp


rall.

V1

V2

5. Lord Jesus Christ


## How does one Pray?


6. How does one Pray?





6. How does one Pray?

6. How does one Pray?

6. How does one Pray?

p


How

V1

V2


Fl


Tp


V2

6. How does one Pray?


6. How does one Pray?


Tp


6. How does one Pray?


6. How does one Pray?

p

6. How does one Pray?
Fl

Tp

Vc

V1


6. How does one Pray?

Fl

Ob

Cl


Tp


Vc


V2

Va

6. How does one Pray?

6. How does one Pray?


