A BIBLICAL BOOK OF BEASTS

Poems by Daniel Pinkham

DOVE

The day is nearly done. Above the waters dark by glow of setting sun I see the distant ark.

Dry land I went to seek. All day I've spent on wing. How proudly in my beak an olive branch I bring!

The ending of the flood it will to Noah show. Now from the ship of wood. the creatures safe may go.

WHALE

Oh! what a pain down in my belly. Oh! I feel it again, indigestible Jonah!

He thought he could flee from God's decree by boarding a ship and taking a trip.

Cast overboard in the midst of the storm, in the deep if the sea he was swallowed by me.

I really do relish a banquet of fish, but this man from Tarshish is not the dish for which I could wish.

FROG

I'm just a small frog, an ex-polliwog, up from the Nile to places royal, up from the marsh to Pharaoh the harsh.

"Listen, Q King,
a warning I bring.
Let Israel go
else Moses will show
you worse plagues from the Lord.
So attend to his word."

LION

Grr. I'm a lion with lock-jaw. What? You never saw one before? Then let me tell you about it.

Daniel was cast into the den but then the angel came at God's command and stopped our mouths and would not let us dine on Old Testament Prophet.

No doubt about it,—
I'm mad and I'm hungry. Grr.

ROOSTER

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

My clarion call proclaims the morning. Awake, awake! The day is dawning.

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

My reveille Saint Peter heard, then wept, remembering his master's word.

COLT

"Our master needs it". That is why disciples two do me untie.

My back they saddle with a cloak.

With branches green they strew the road.

He comes not riding through the air, a golden chariot for his car, but mounted on an ass's colt, as it in Scripture was foretold.

"Hosanna", as they see his face, "Hosanna", to great David's race, "Hosanna", now the people sing as on my back I bear a king.

The text should be printed in the program with the following notice:

Poems copyright by Daniel Pinkham and reprinted with permission.

Parts for string quartet or string accompaniment are available from the publisher.

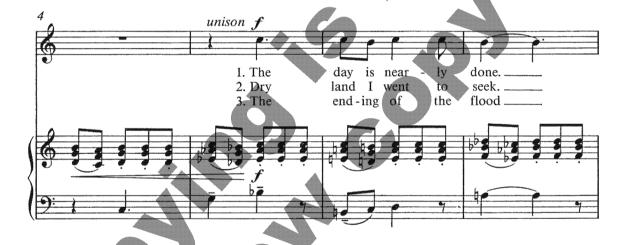
Commissioned in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the All Souls Children's Choir, All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

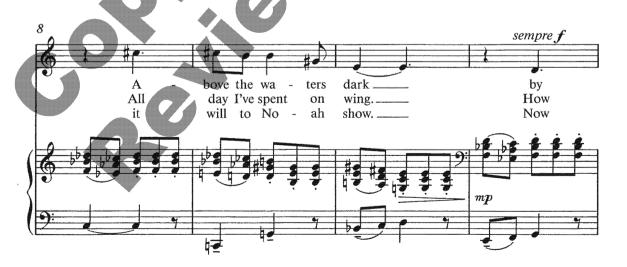
A BIBLICAL BOOK OF BEASTS

for two-part Chorus of Treble Voices and String Quartet or Piano

1. DOVE







© Copyright 1992 by Ione Press, a division of ECS Publishing in Boston, Massachusetts.

All rights reserved. Made in U.S.A.



2. WHALE









3. FROG





4. LION







5. ROOSTER







6. COLT

