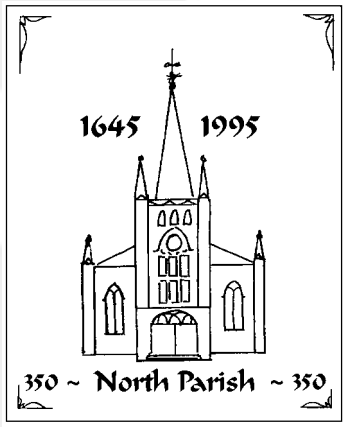
TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD

A commissioned choral work in honor of the 350th anniversary celebration of the North Parish Church of North Andover, MA



Words by Rev. David Blanchard
Music by Matt Johnson

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

Funding for this project courtesy of the Creighton E. Gatchell, Jr. Memorial Music Fund

COMPOSER'S NOTES

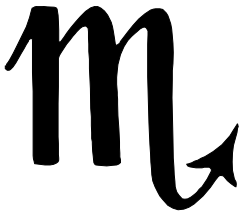
- *This original piece was commissioned by the North Parish of North Andover to help celebrate their 350th anniversary. The words were provided by the minister of the church, Rev. David Blanchard...a good friend.*
- *The work is approximately 3:50 minutes in length (for the 350th!) and written for accompanied SATB Chorale.*
- *While creating the piece, I made several decisions:*
  *- The overall feeling of the work should be **joyous**.*
  - Since the lyrics tell of the beginning of the North Parish, I created a 'frontier' type recurring motif.
  - The verses lent themselves to be 'through-composed' instead of 'strophic'.
  - To help emphasize the story being told (the history of North Parish), I tried to utilize a slower melodic rhythm and support it with a faster, more energetic accompaniment.
  - Regarding vocal pitch ranges: I intentionally kept the soprano part in the lower register until the end. The alto and tenor parts are not too high for either part while the bass part has some nice low notes.
- *Overall, I consider this work to be very melodic while incorporating contemporary harmonies. After an initial solemn statement of the main lyrical motif, the robust frontier musical motif is introduced and then used as the 'glue' between each of the through-composed verses. The extended Coda section is contrapuntal in nature, finally reuniting harmonically for the ending.*
- *The premiere performance of this work took place November 4, 1995 at a celebratory concert at the church.*

- *The engraving of this work was done by the composer.*

Namaste,

Matt Johnson





www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

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TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD

Words by Rev. David Blanchard
Music by Matt Johnson

We firm again the ancient vow to serve the living God.

We firm again the ancient vow of those who've gone before… to serve the living God.

Give thought to this our church, our church whose birth three centuries ago called forth a faithful few who sought to serve the living God.

We firm again the ancient vow of those who've gone before… to serve the living God.

Those faithful founders they built their Eden in a strange forbidden forest, a new and wondrous land, to strive as best they could, to worship as they would and still they served the living God.

We firm again the ancient vow of those who've gone before… to serve the living God.

Through these centuries has it served. Inspired by earnest heart and reasoned mind, we carry on the trust of those who've gone before. We too have sought the way of truth and served as best we could, we've served the living God, we serve the living God.

We firm again the ancient vow of those who've gone before… to serve the living God. ***(repeat)***

We *reaffirm* the ancient vow to serve the living God. *(repeat)*

We reaffirm the ancient vow of those who've gone before to serve the living God.
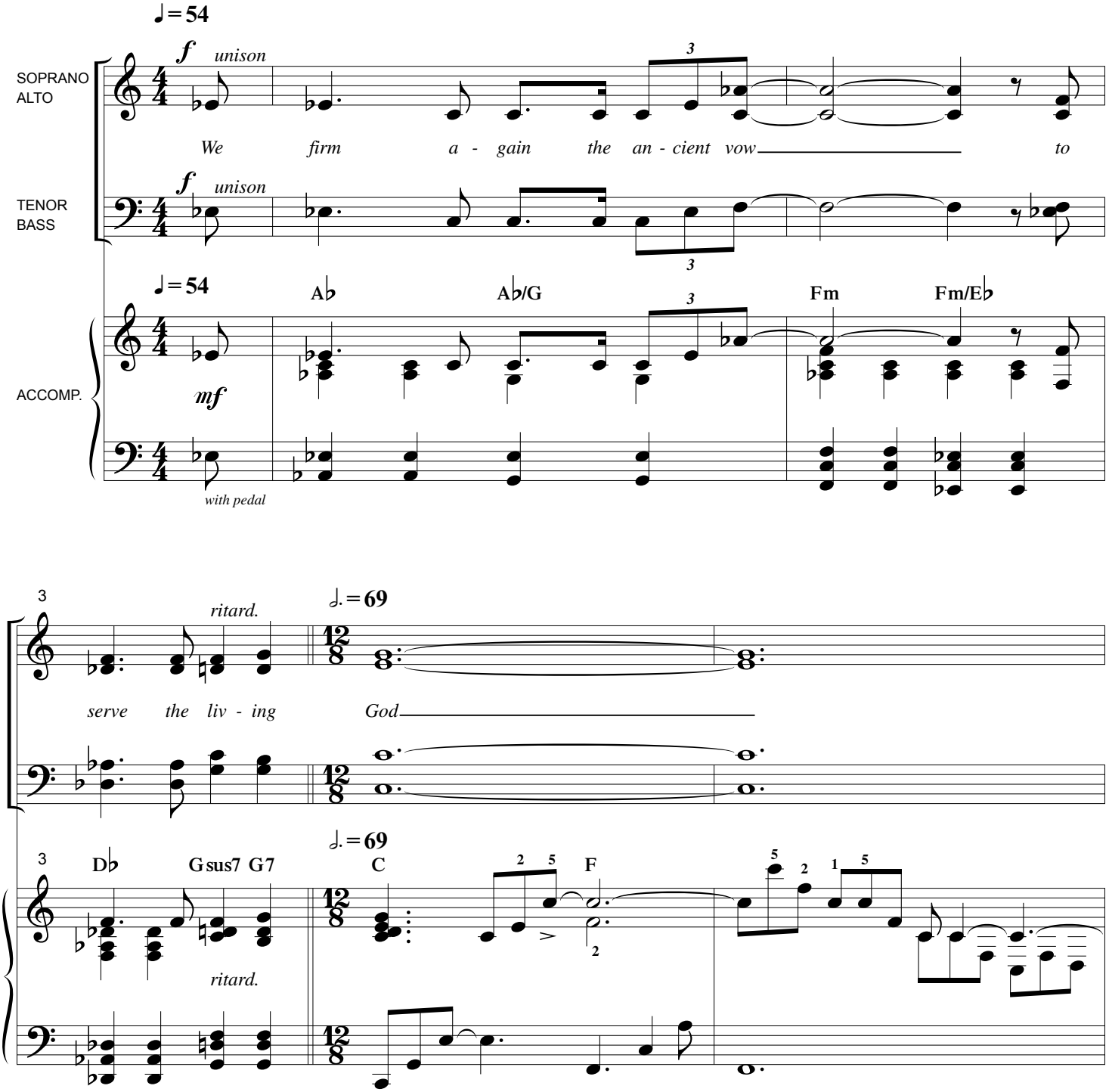
In honor of the 350th anniversary celebration of the North Parish Church of North Andover, MA

TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD
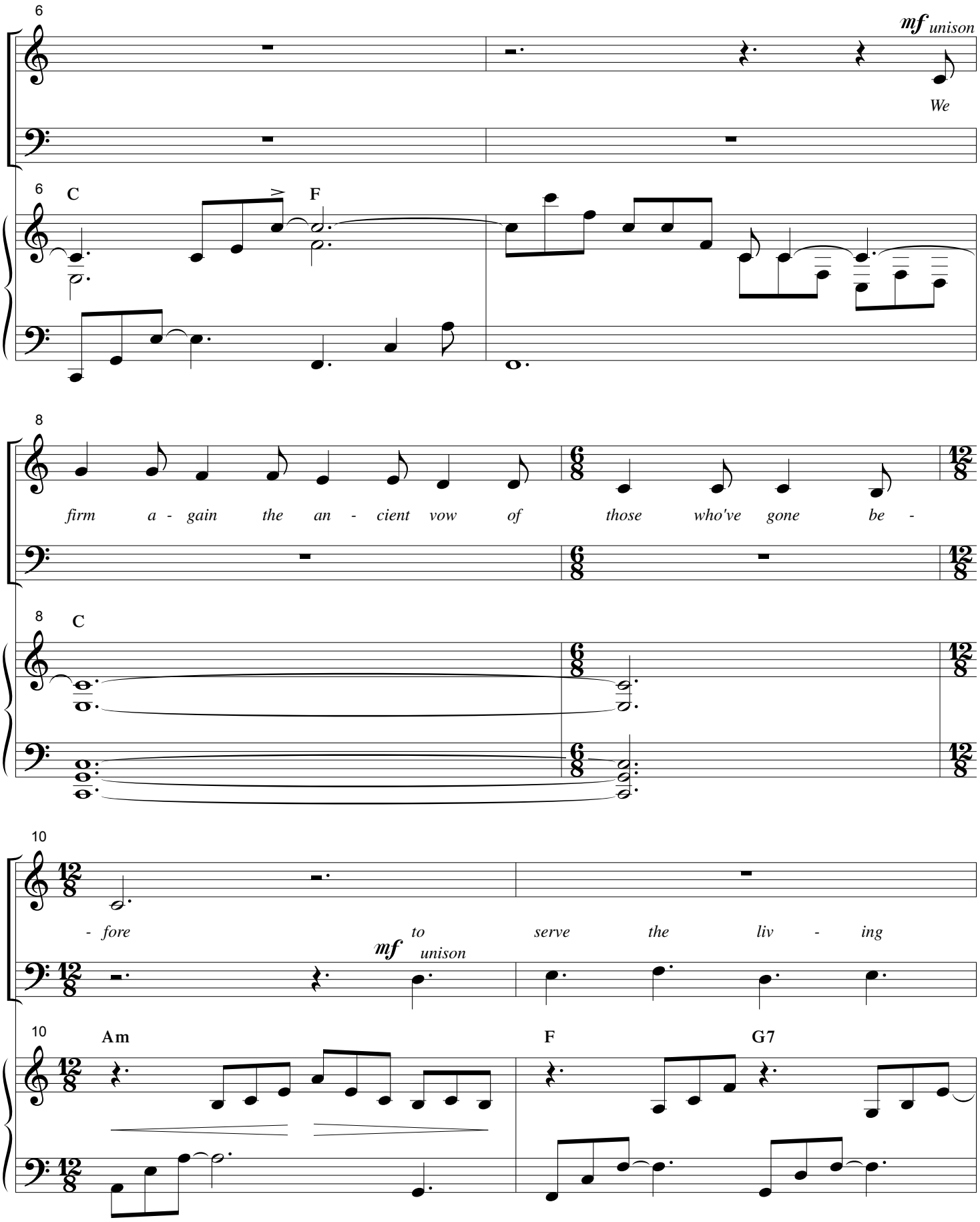
for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied
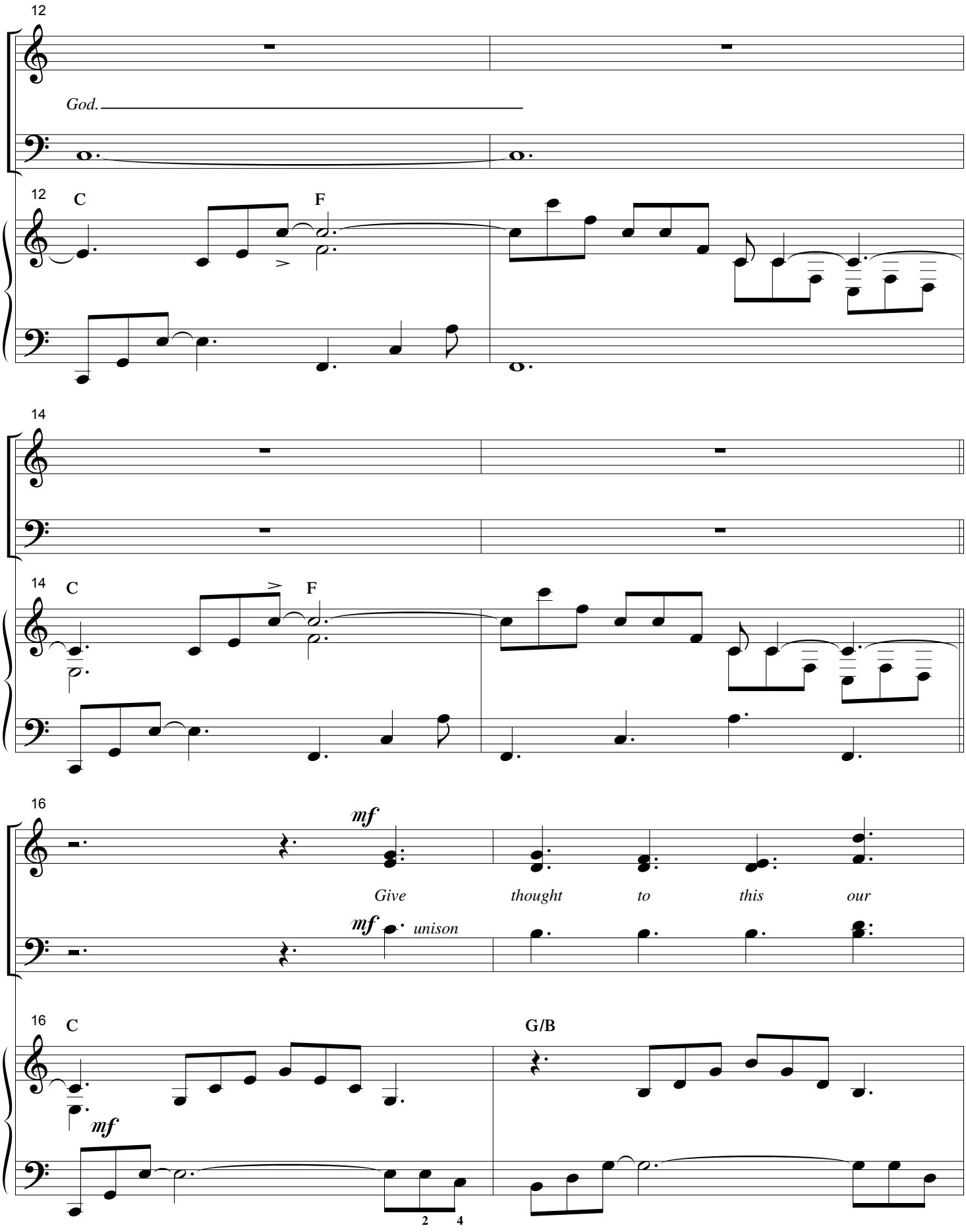
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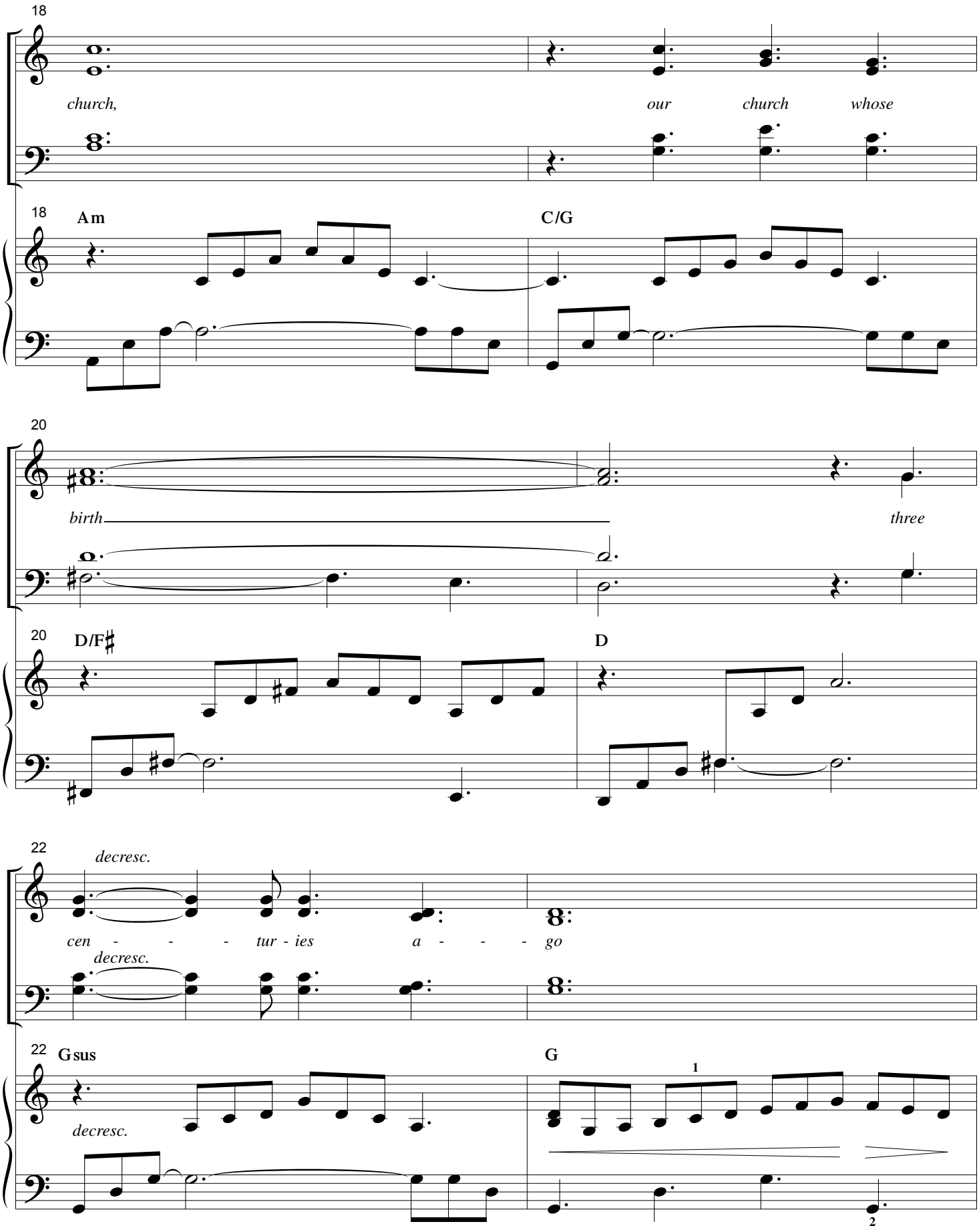
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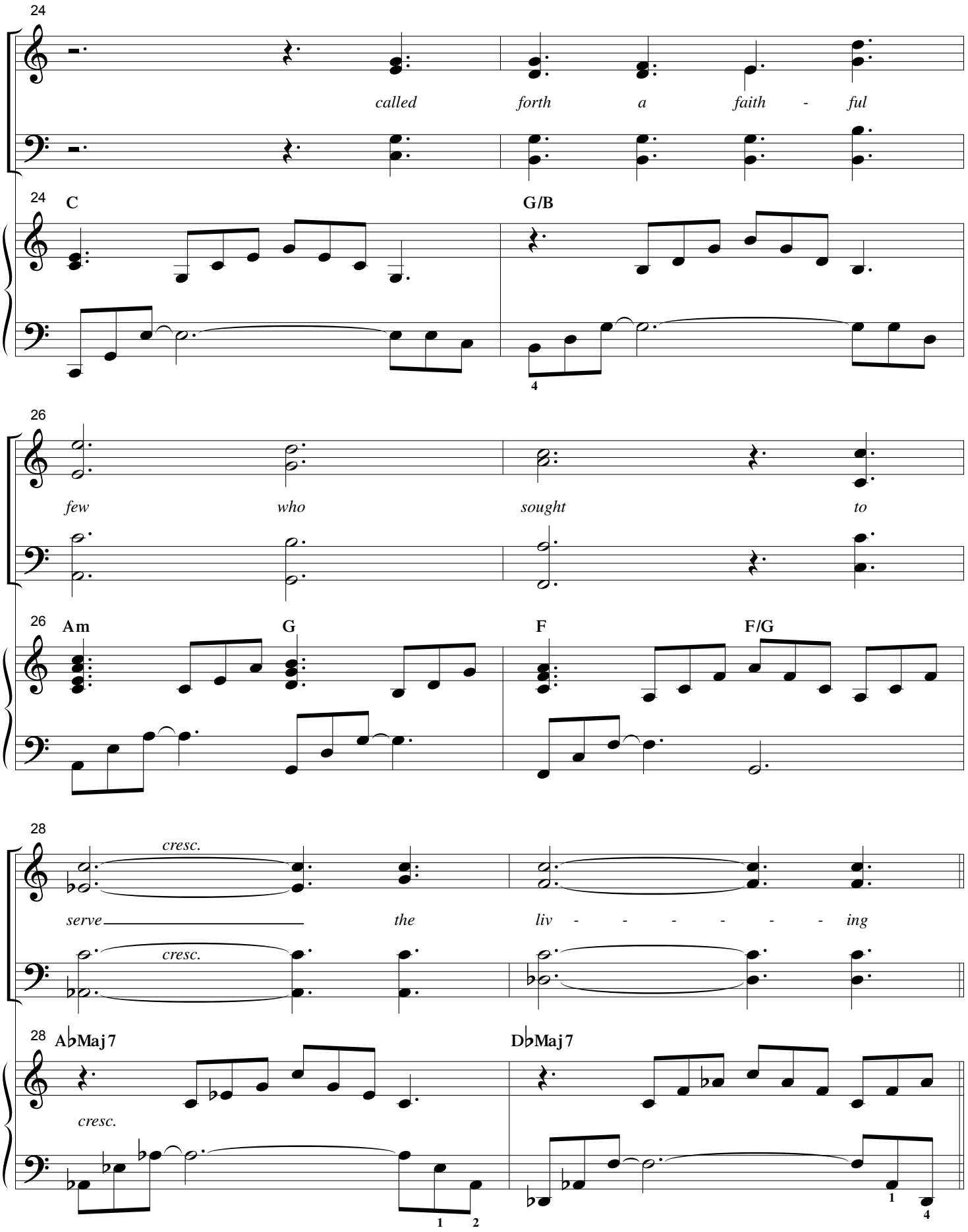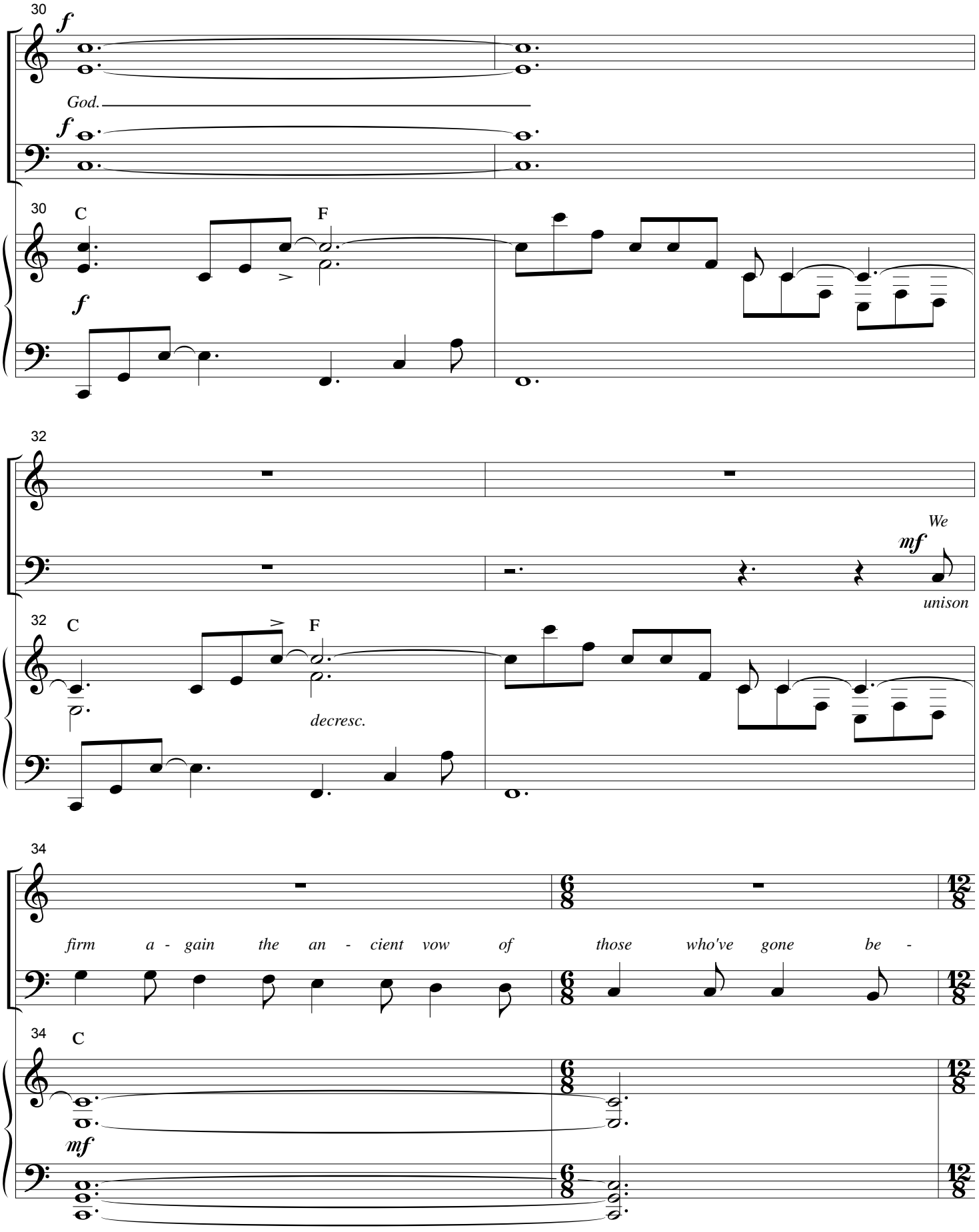


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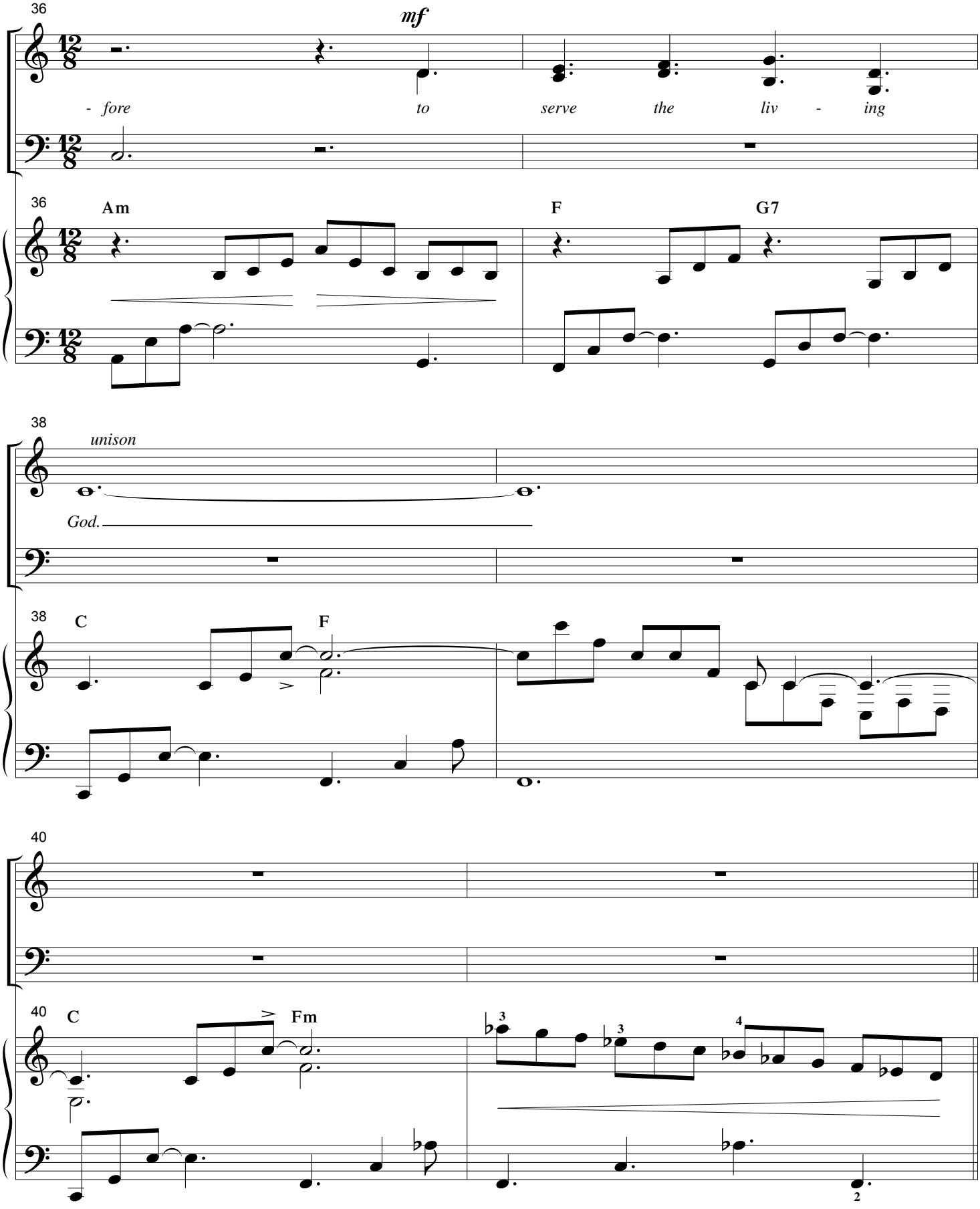

6
mf unison
We
6
C
F
8
firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
8
C
10
- fore to serve the liv - ing
mf unison
10
Am
F
G7
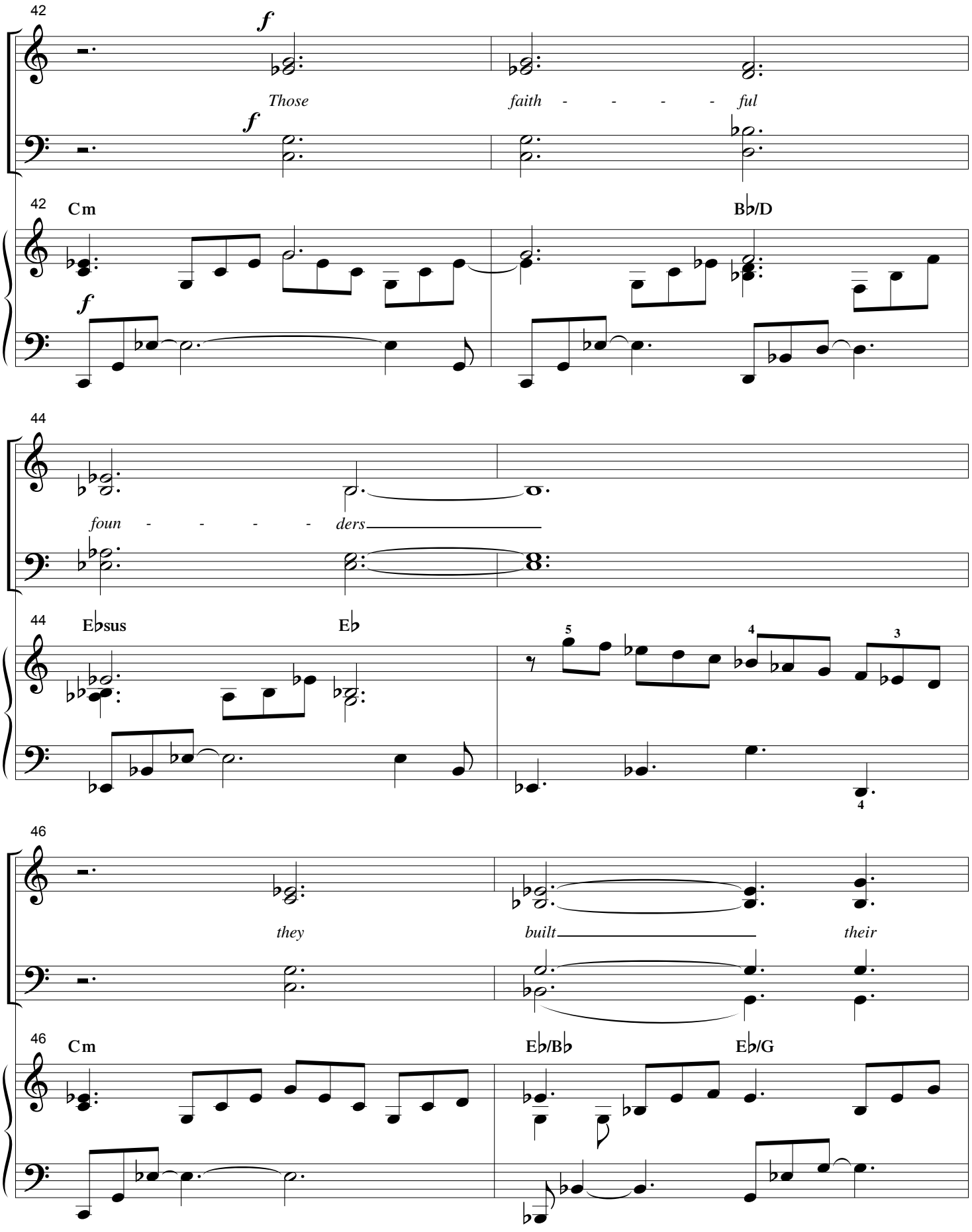

12
God.
12
C
F
14
14
C
F
16
mf
Give
thought
to
this
our
mf
unison
16
C
G/B
mf
2
4
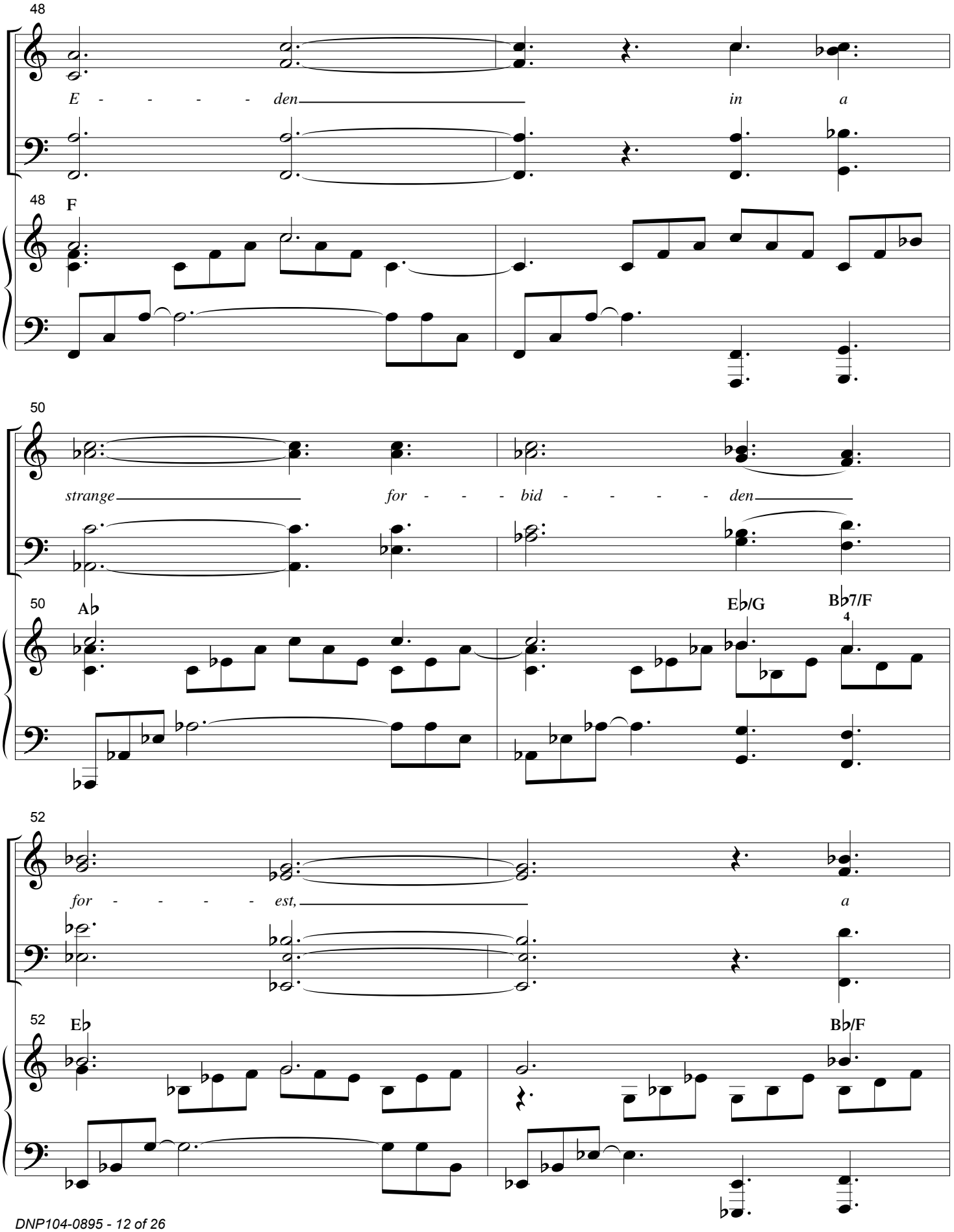

18
church,
our
church
whose
18
Am
C/G
20
birth
three
20
D/F♯
D
22
decresc.
cen - - - - tur - ies
a - - - - go
decresc.
22
Gsus
G
decresc.
1
2
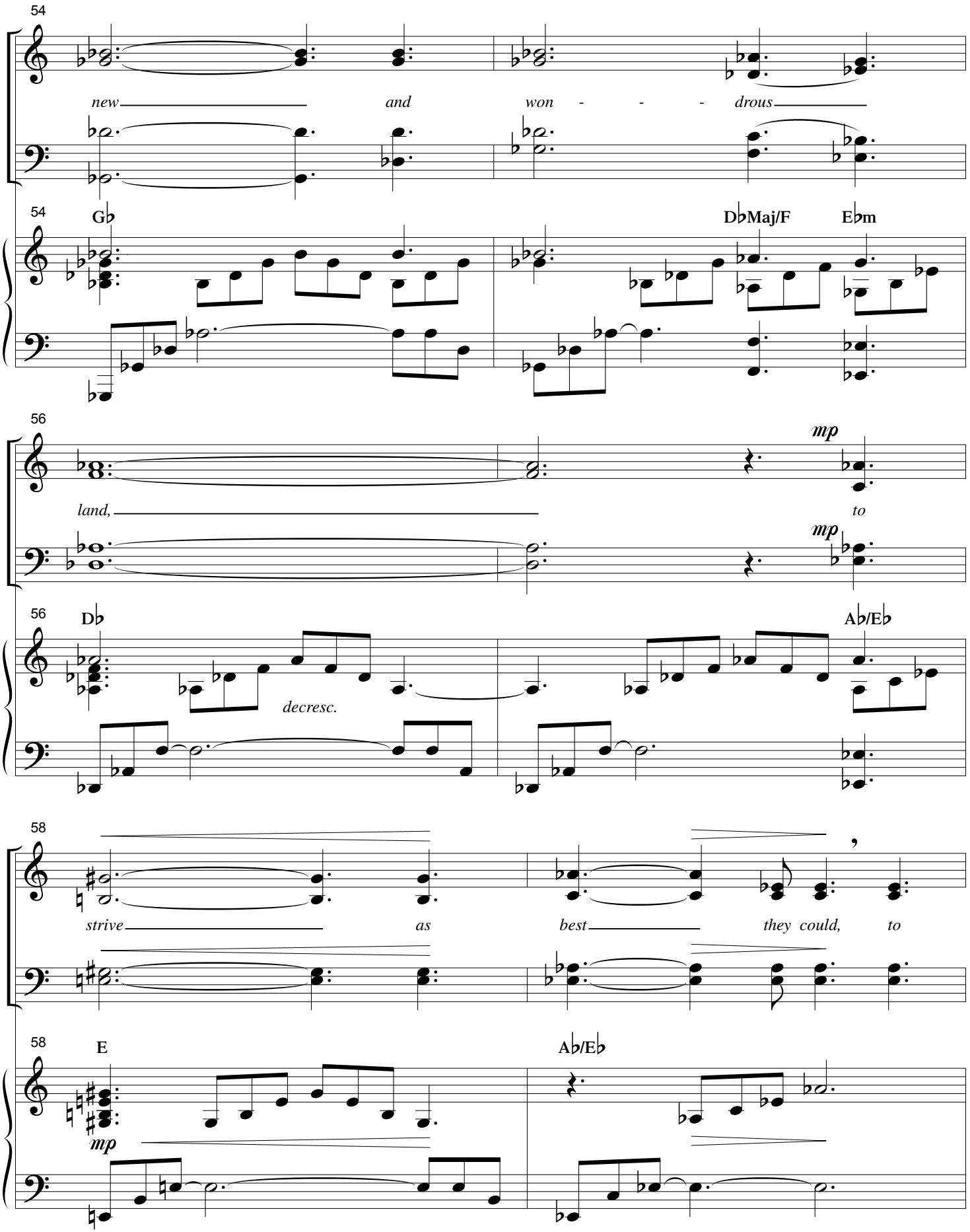

24
called forth a faith - ful
24 C G/B
26
few who sought to
26 Am G F F/G
28
cresc.
serve the liv - - - - - - ing
cresc.
28 AbMaj7 DbMaj7
cresc.
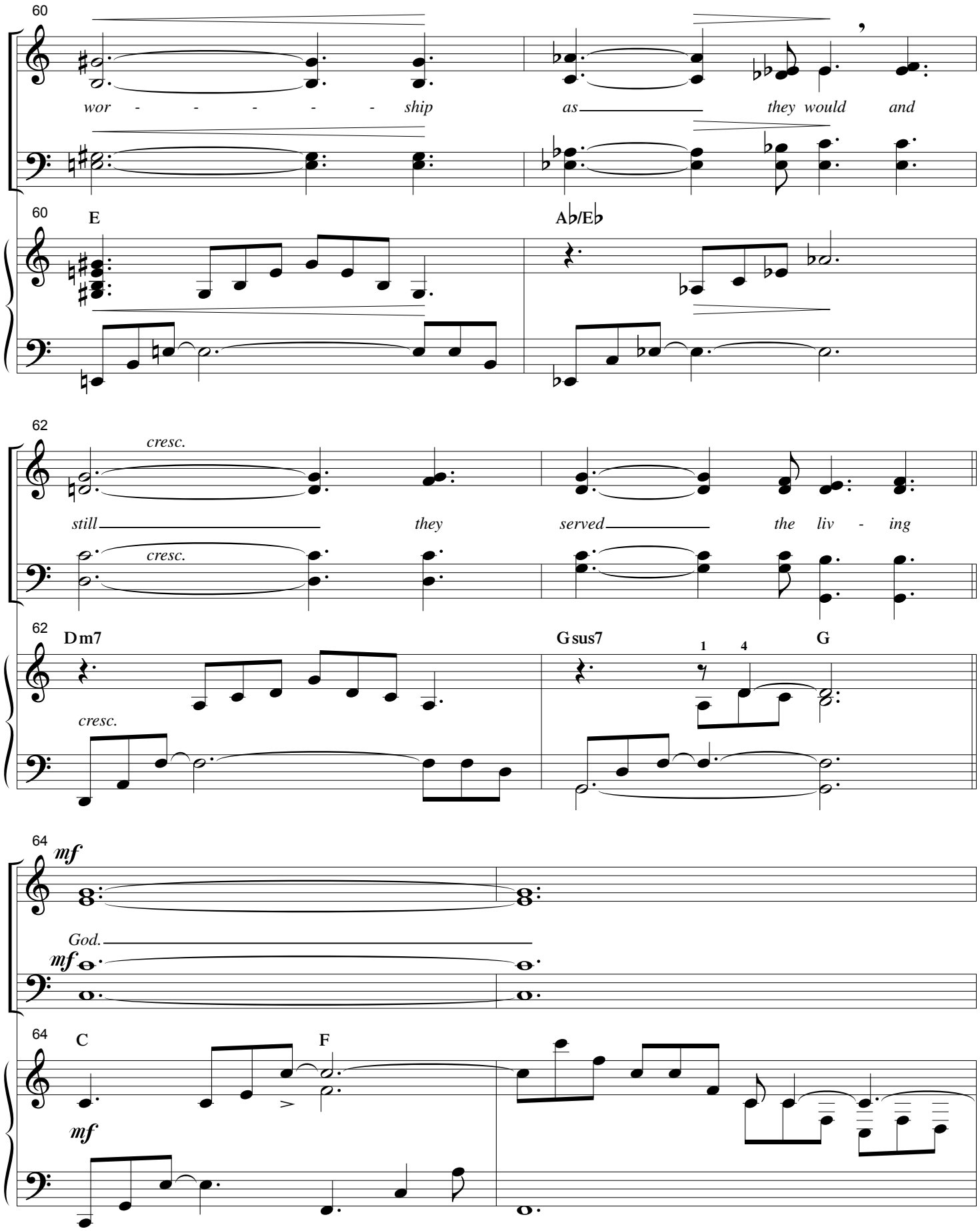

30
f
God.
f
30
C
F
f
32
We
mf
unison
32
C
F
decresc.
34
firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
34
C
mf
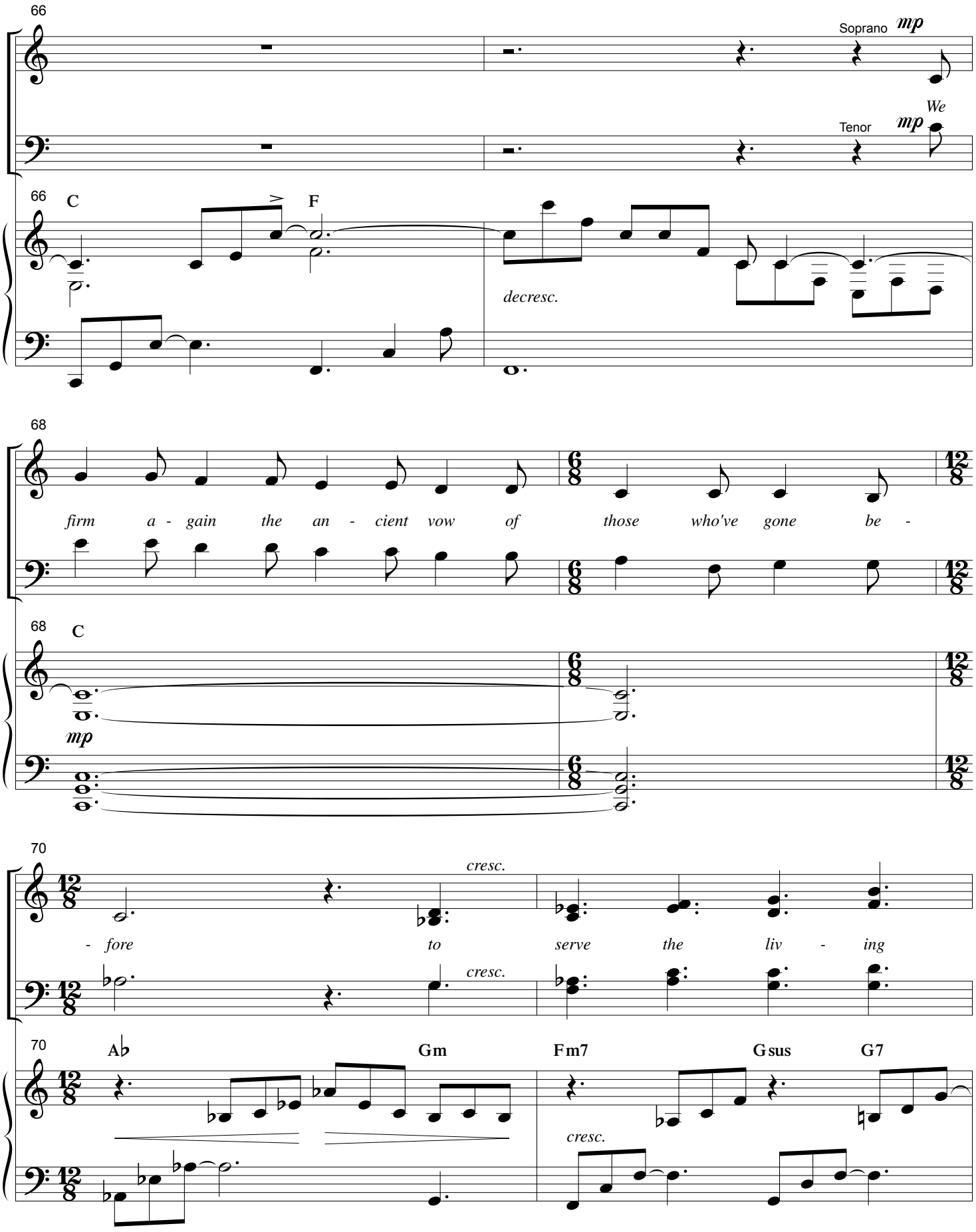

36
mf
- fore to serve the liv - ing
36
Am
F
G7
38
unison
God.
38
C
F
40
40
C
Fm
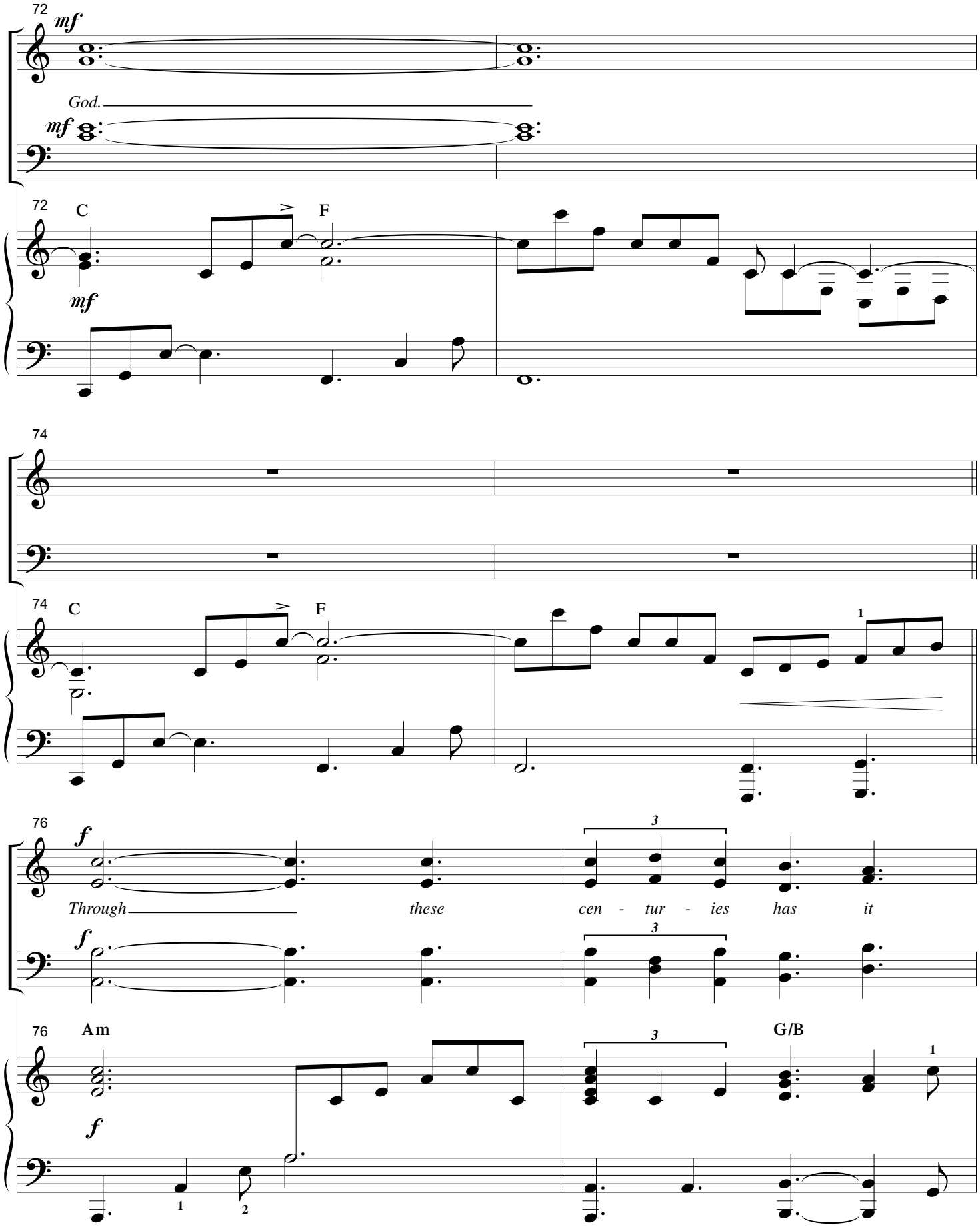

42
f
Those
faith - - - - ful
f
42
Cm
B♭/D
f
44
foun - - - - ders
44
E♭sus
E♭
5
4
3
4
46
they
built
their
46
Cm
E♭/B♭
E♭/G
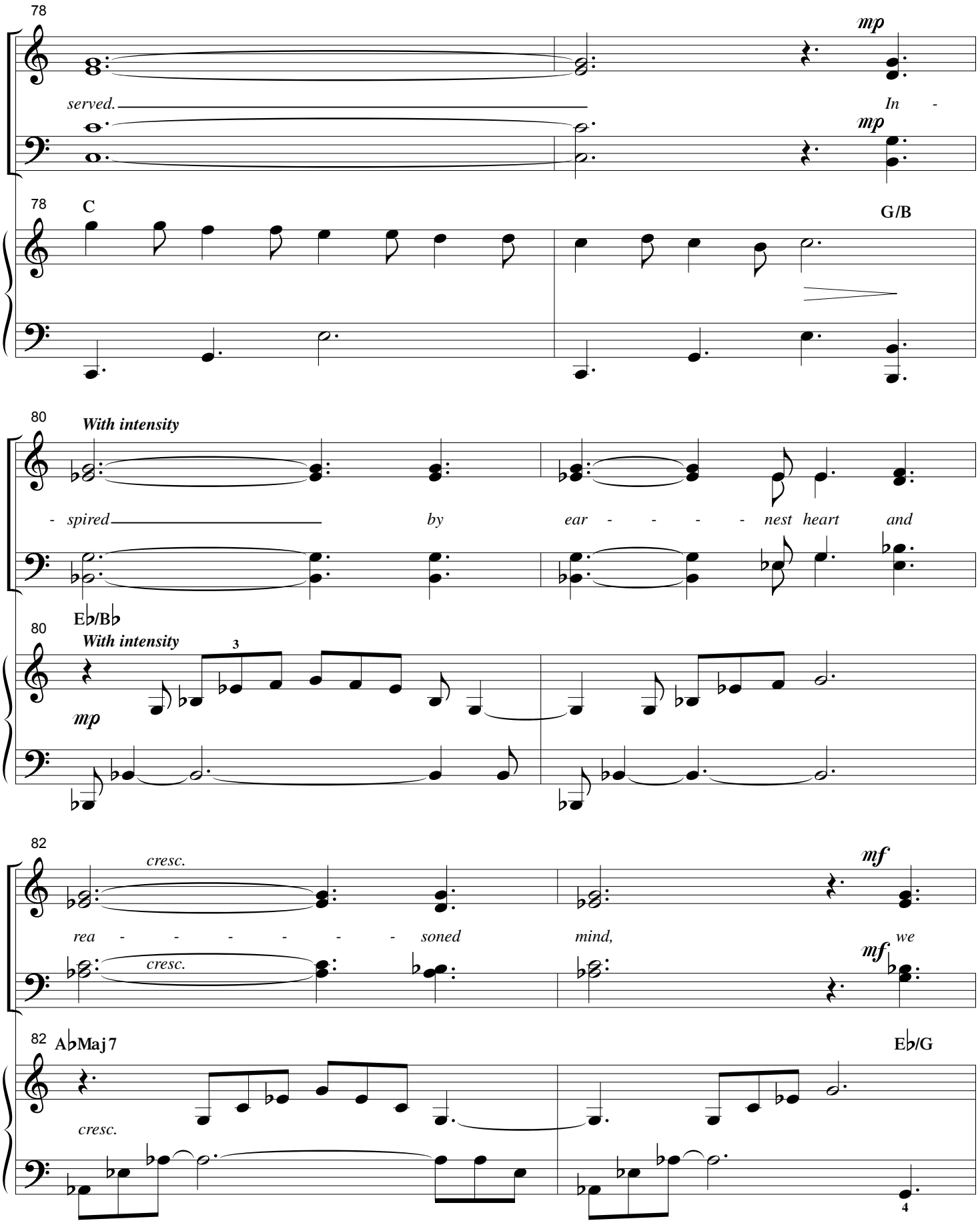

48
E - - - - - den
in a
48
F
50
strange
for - - - bid - - - - - den
50
A♭
E♭/G
B♭7/F
4
52
for - - - - - est,
a
52
E♭
B♭/F
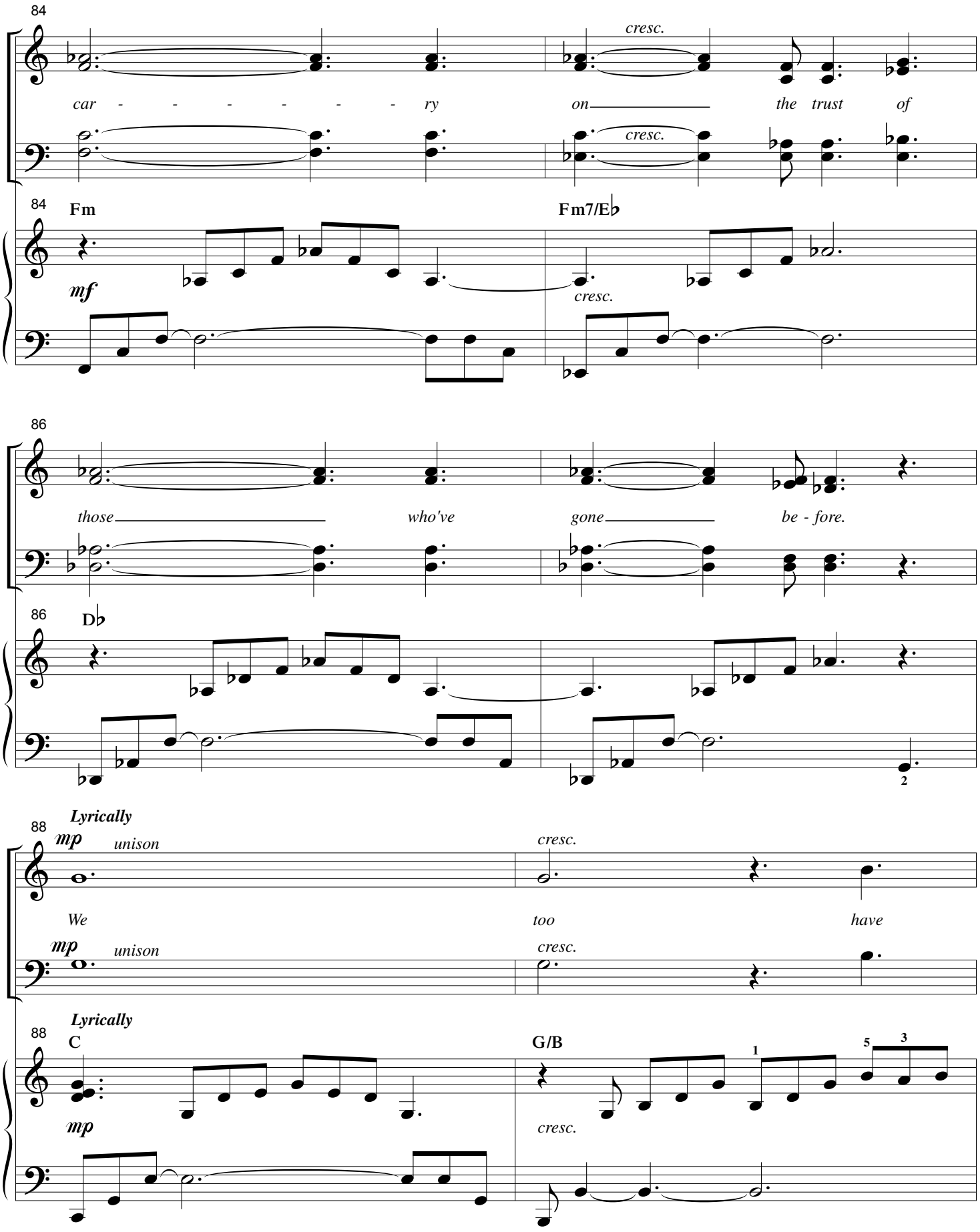

54
new and won - - - drous
54
G♭
D♭Maj/F
E♭m
56
land,
mp
to
mp
56
D♭
decresc.
A♭/E♭
58
strive as best they could, to
58
E
mp
A♭/E♭
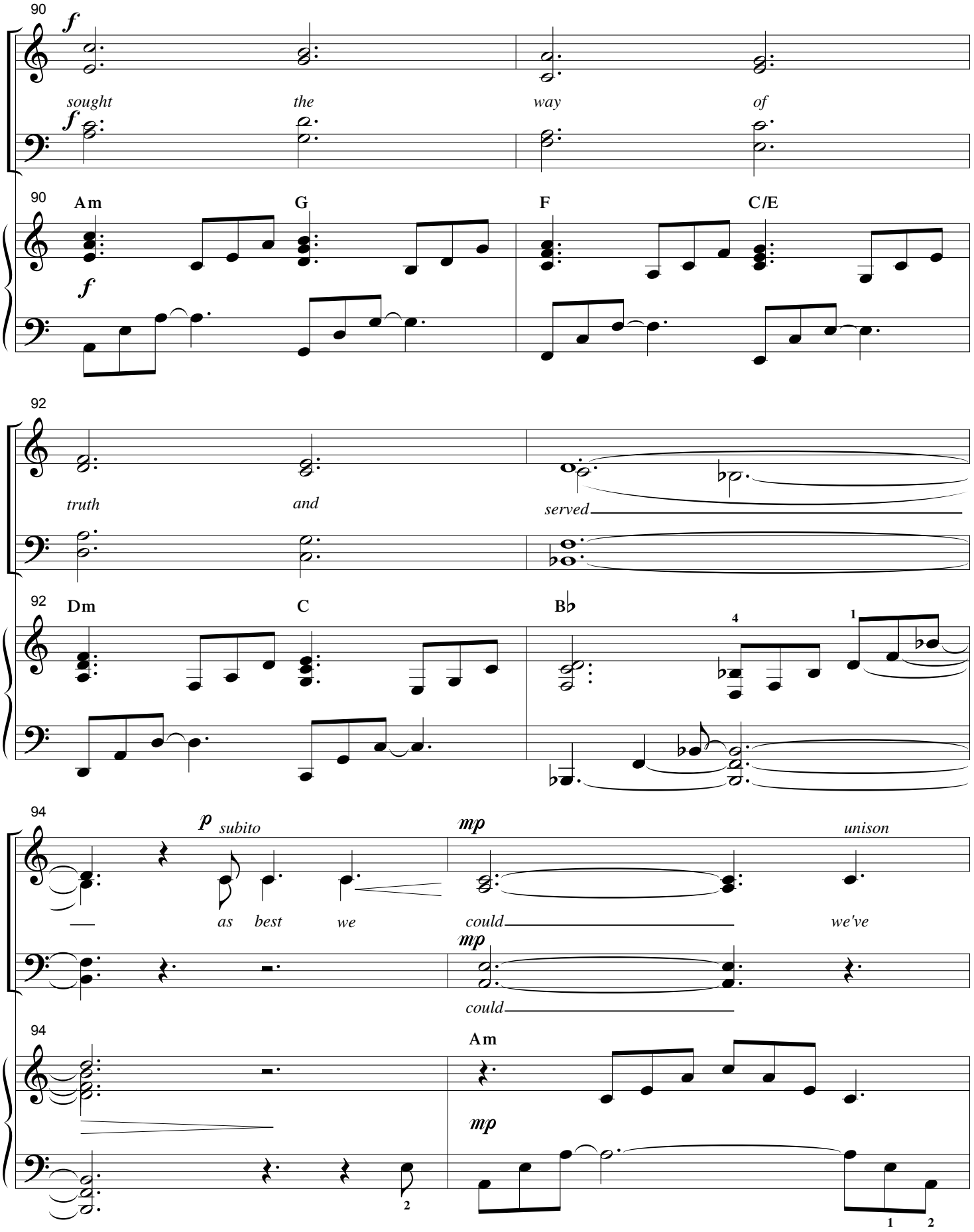

60
wor - - - - - ship as they would and
60
E
A♭/E♭
62
cresc.
still they served the liv - ing
cresc.
62
Dm7
Gsus7
G
1 4
cresc.
64
mf
God.
mf
64
C
F
mf
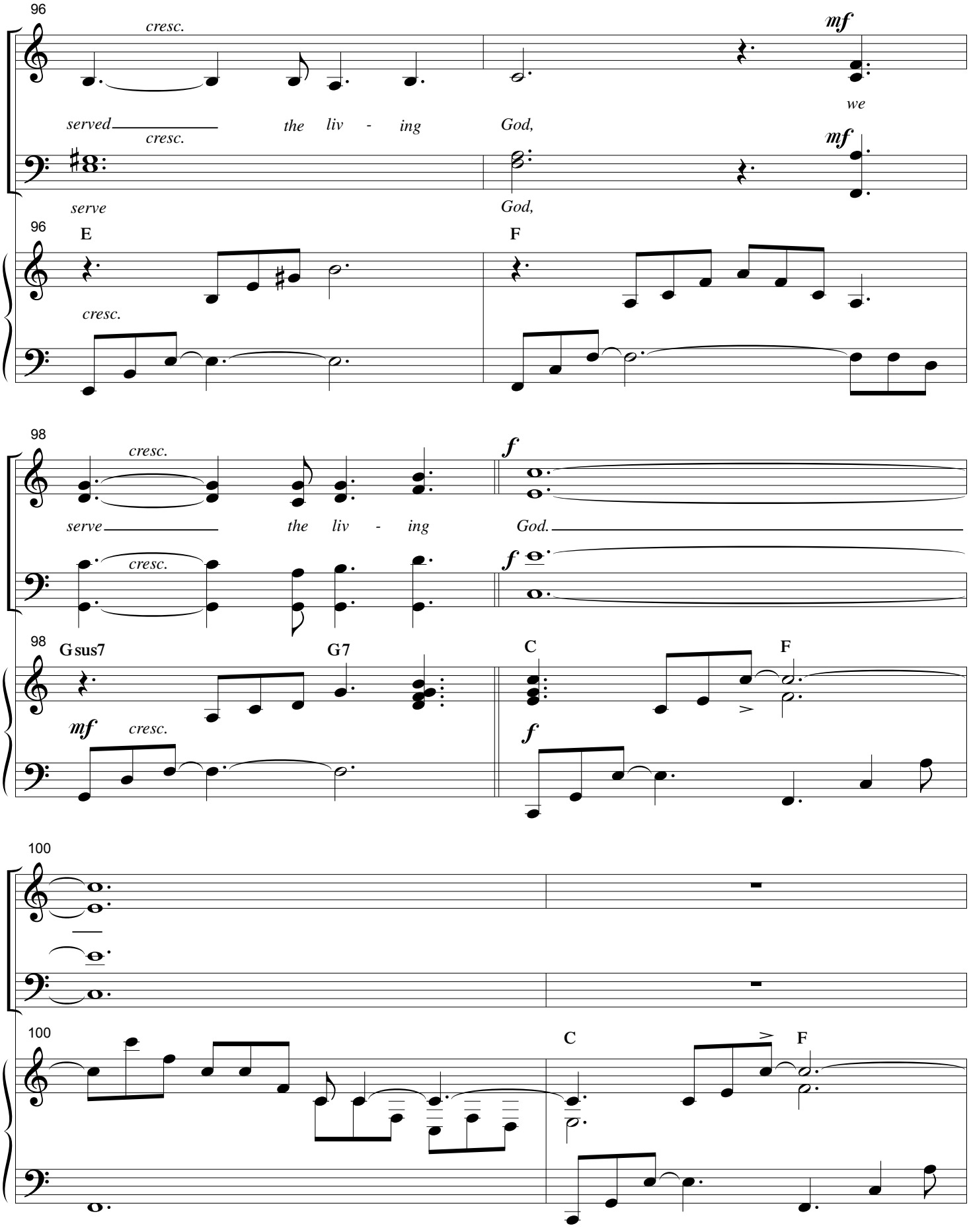

66
Soprano
mp
We
Tenor
mp
66
C
F
decresc.
68
firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
68
C
mp
70
cresc.
- fore to serve the liv - ing
cresc.
70
Ab
Gm
Fm7
Gsus
G7
cresc.
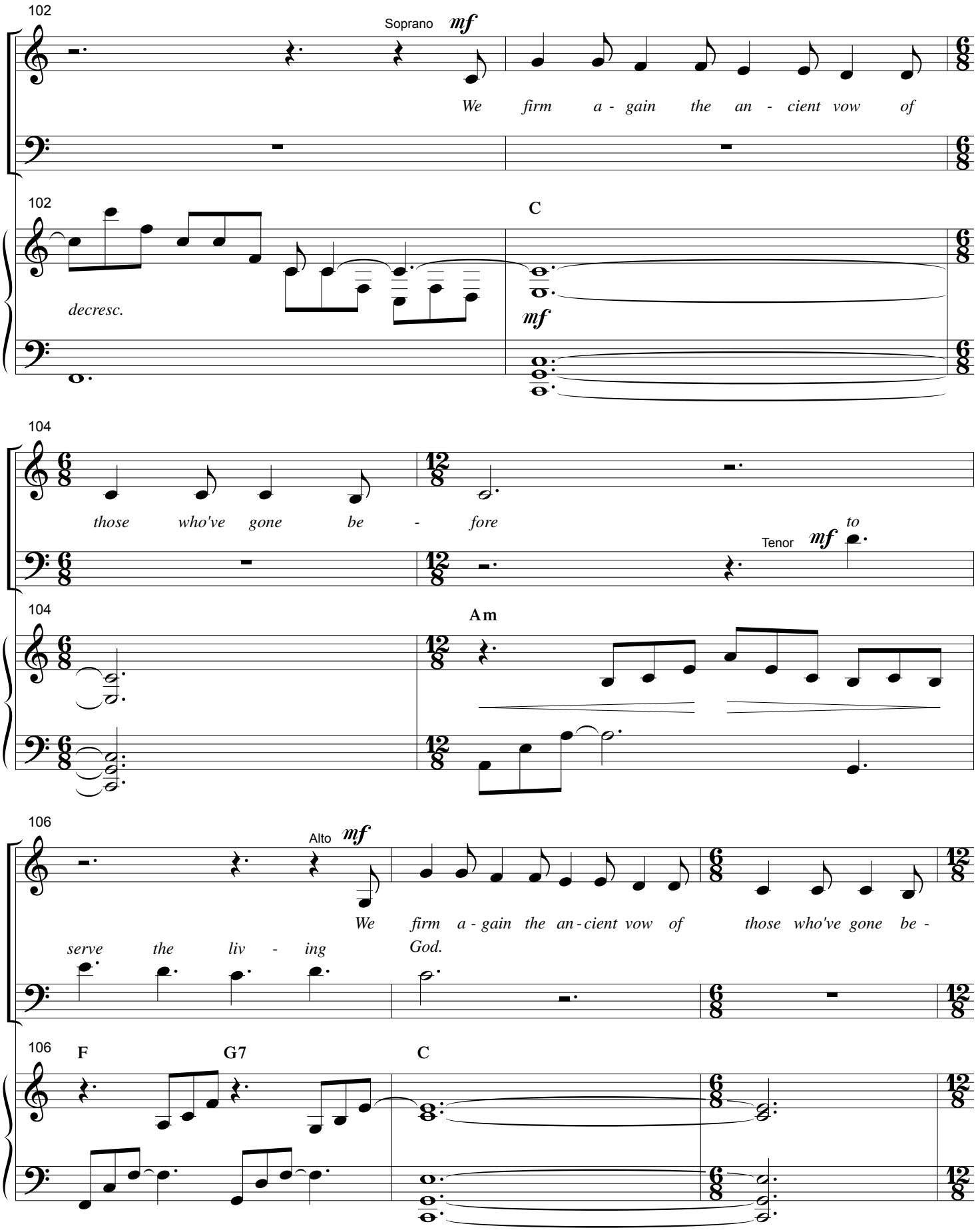

72
mf
God.
mf
72
C
F
mf
74
74
C
F
1
76
f
Through
these
cen - tur - ies
has
it
3
f
76
Am
G/B
f
1
2
1
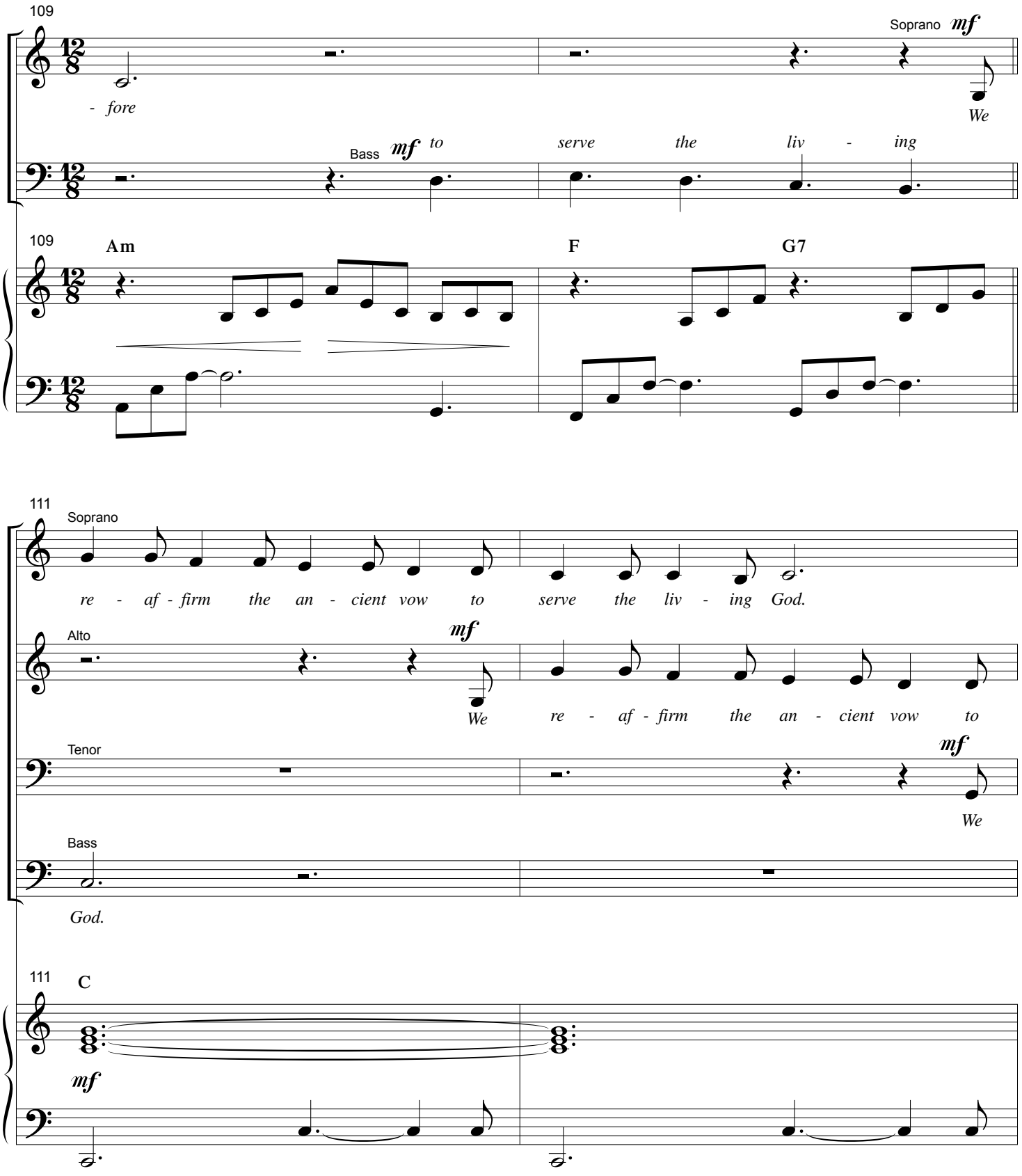

78
mp
served.
In -
mp
78
C
G/B
80
With intensity
- spired by ear - - - - nest heart and
Eb/Bb
80
With intensity
3
mp
82
cresc.
mf
rea - - - - - - - soned mind, we
cresc.
mf
82
AbMaj7
Eb/G
cresc.
4
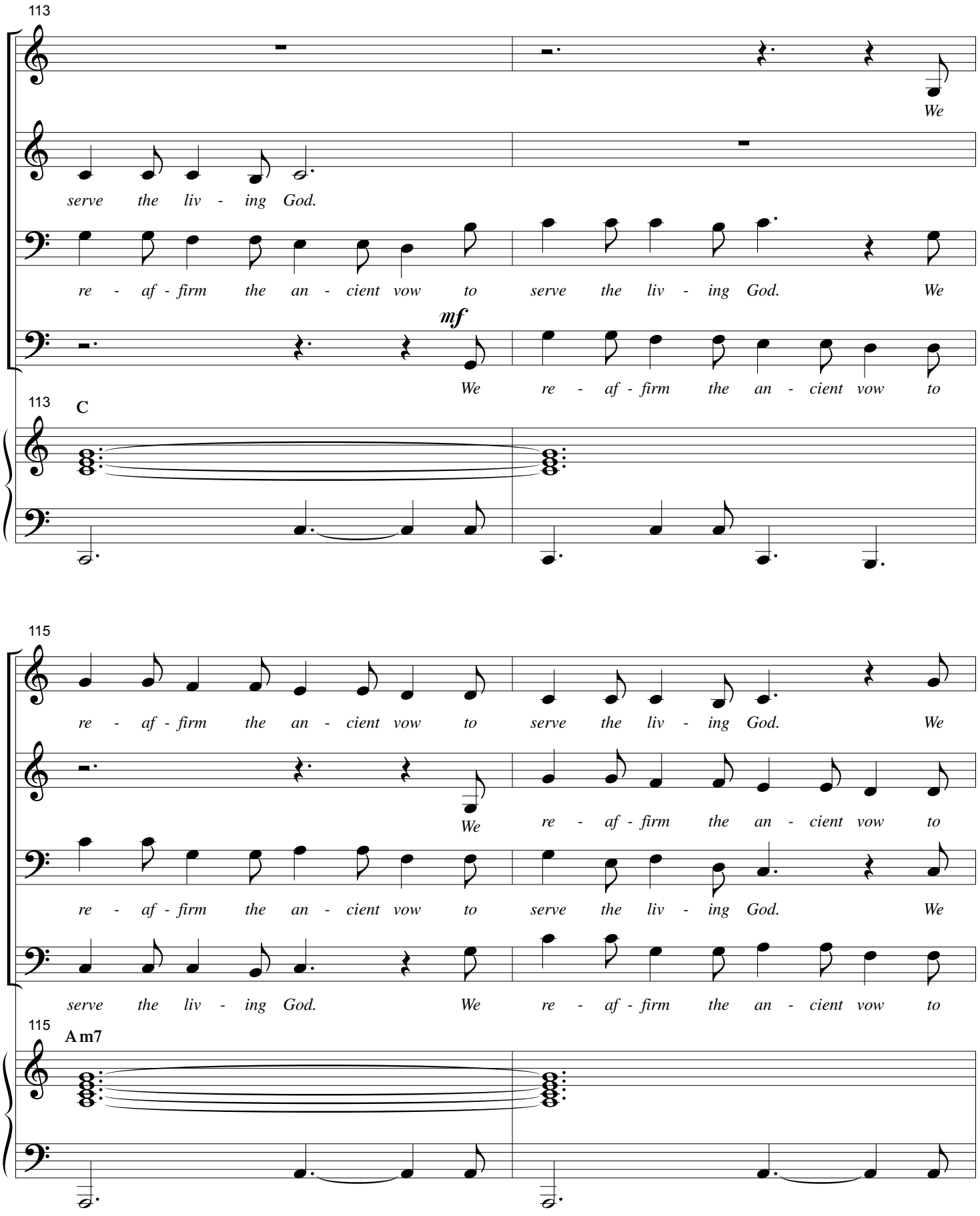

84
car - - - - - - - ry
cresc.
on the trust of
cresc.
84
Fm
mf
Fm7/Eb
cresc.
86
those who've
gone be - fore.
86
Db
2
88
Lyrically
mp
unison
We
cresc.
too have
mp
unison
cresc.
88
Lyrically
C
mp
G/B
1
5
3
cresc.
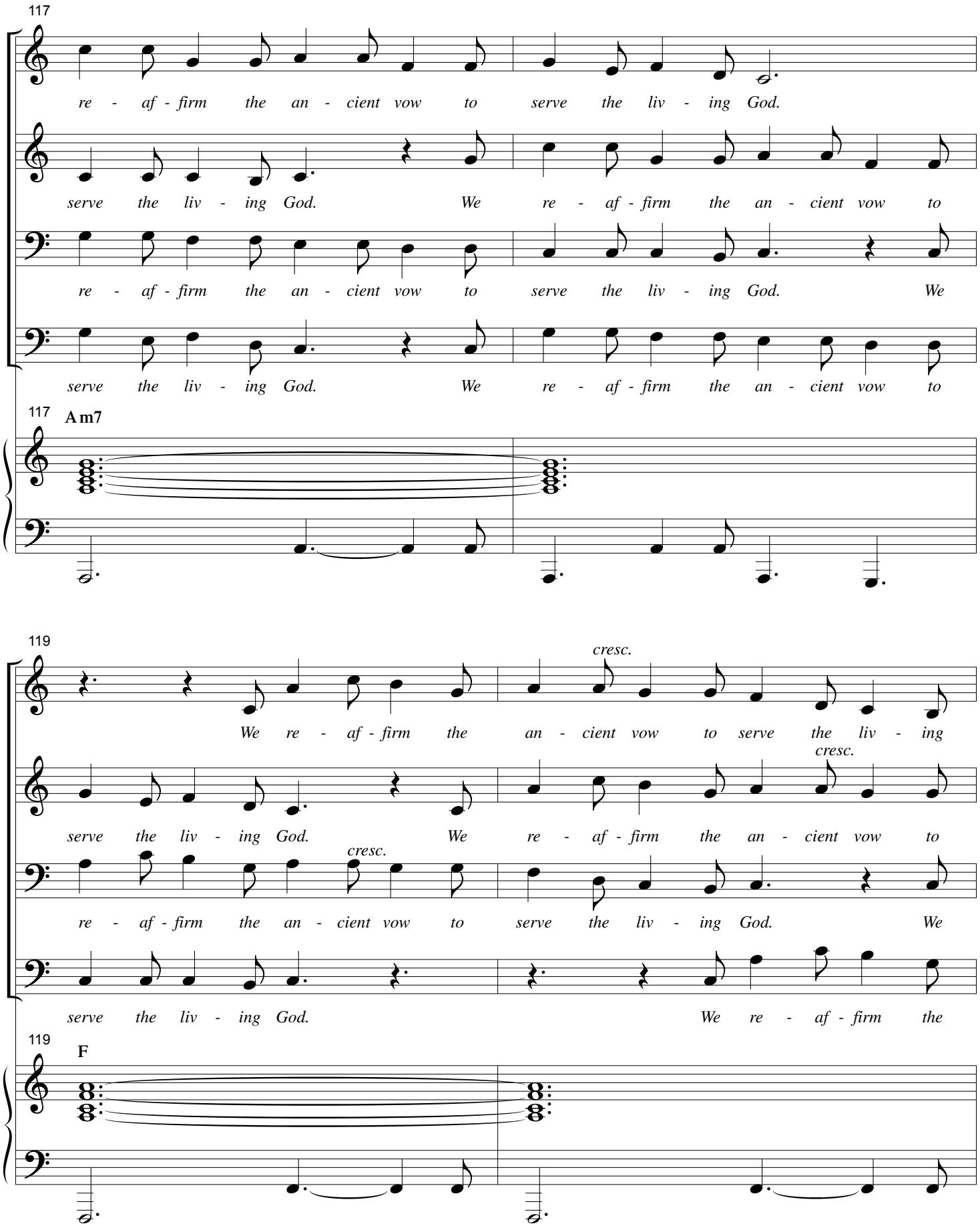

90
f
sought
the
way
of
f
90
Am
G
F
C/E
f
92
truth
and
served
92
Dm
C
B♭
4
1
94
p
subito
mp
unison
as
best
we
could
we've
mp
could
94
Am
mp
2
1
2
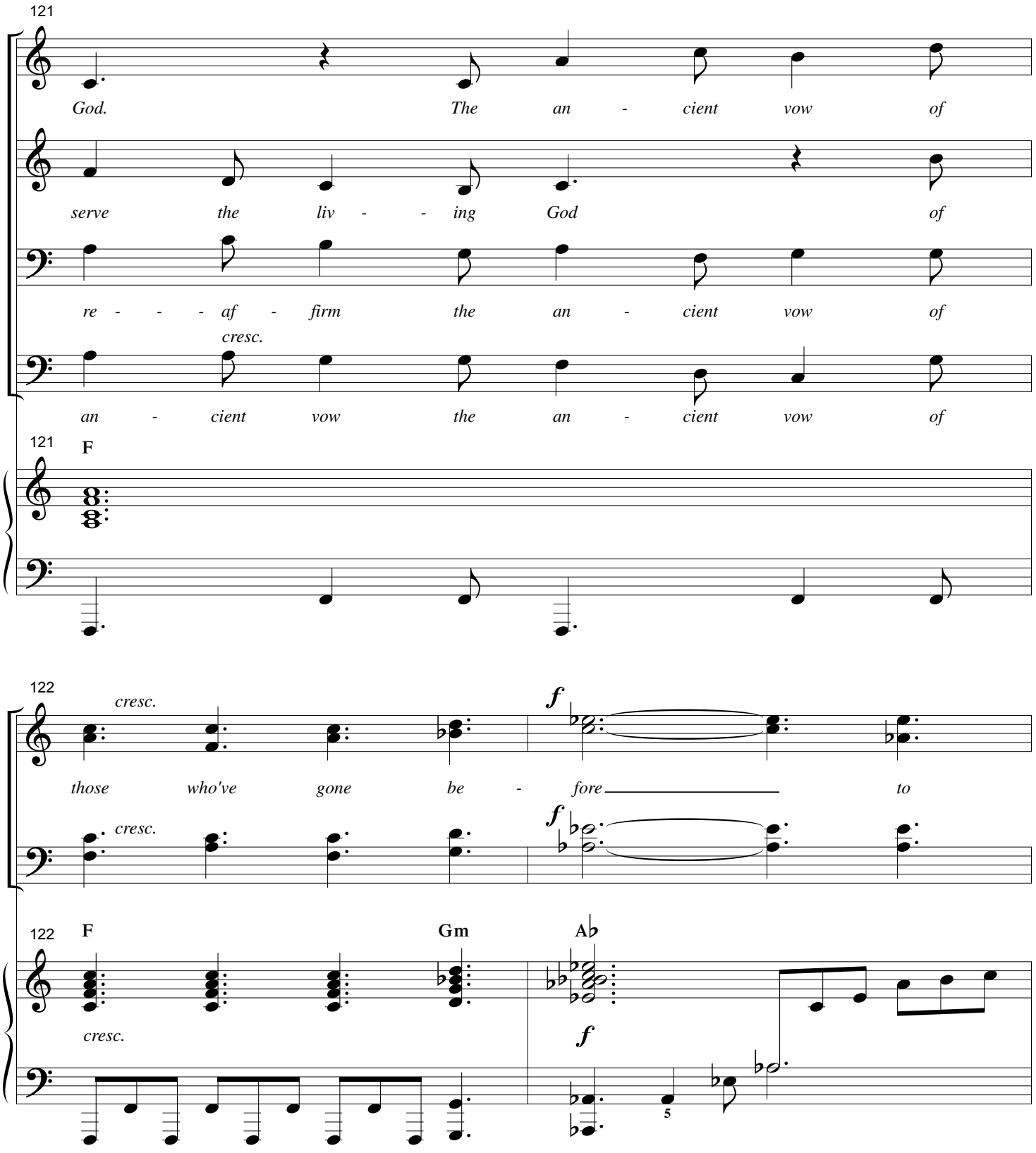

96
cresc.
mf
served
the liv - ing
God,
we
cresc.
mf
serve
God,
96
E
F
cresc.
98
cresc.
f
serve
the liv - ing
God.
cresc.
f
98
G sus7
G7
C
F
mf
cresc.
f
100
100
C
F
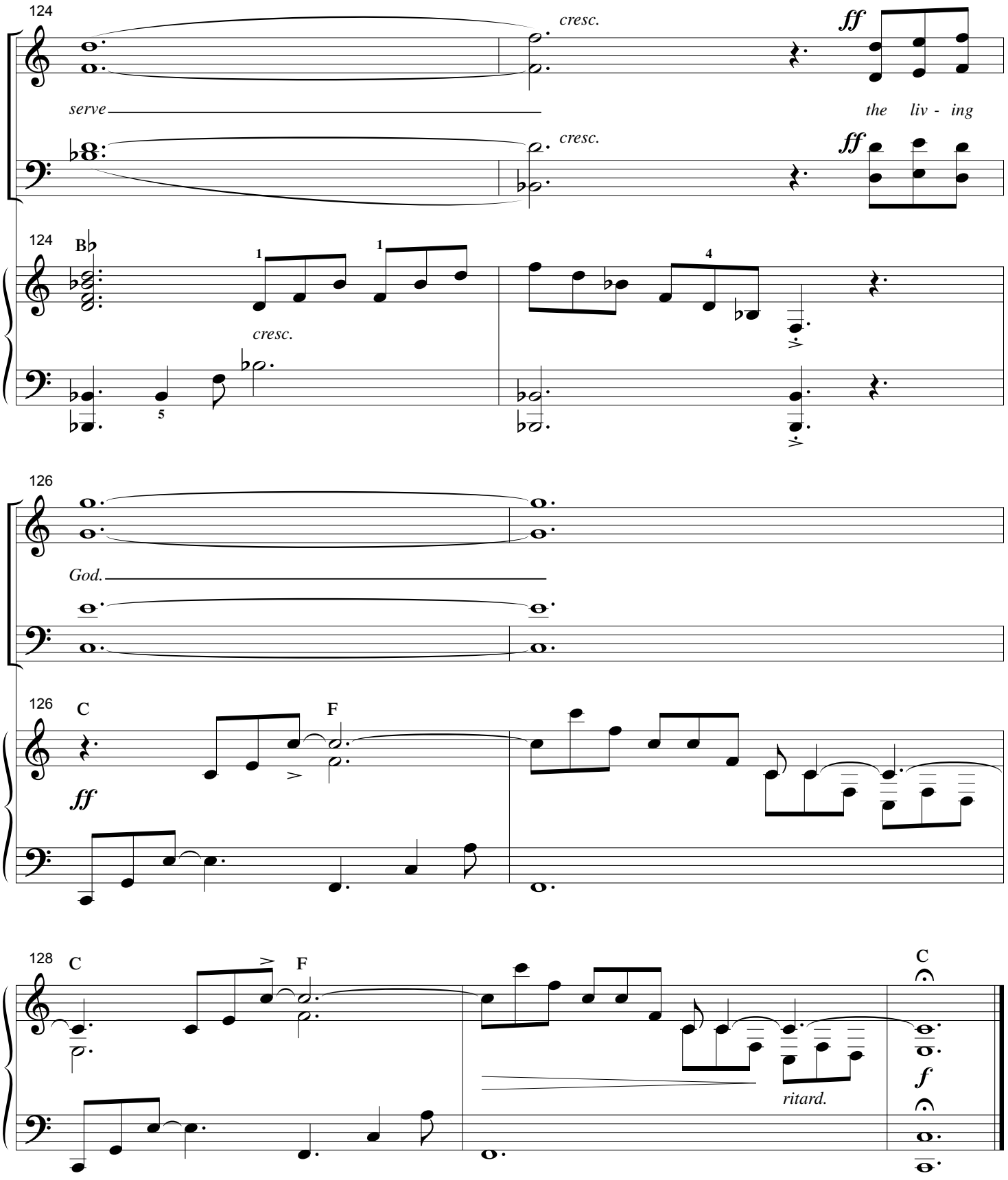

102
Soprano
mf
We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of
102
C
decresc.
mf
104
those who've gone be - fore
Tenor
mf
to
104
Am
106
Alto
mf
We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
serve the liv - ing God.
106
F
G7
C


109
Soprano
mf
- fore
We
Bass
mf
to
serve
the
liv - ing
109
Am
F
G7
111
Soprano
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.
Alto
mf
We
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
Tenor
mf
We
Bass
God.
111
C
mf


113
We
serve the liv - ing God.
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
mf
We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
113
C
115
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
115
A m7


117
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
117
Am7
119
We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing
cresc.
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
cresc.
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
cresc.
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the
119
F


121
God. The an - cient vow of
serve the liv - - ing God of
re - - - af - firm the an - cient vow of
cresc.
an - cient vow the an - cient vow of
121
F
122
cresc.
those who've gone be - fore to
f
cresc.
f
122
F
Gm
Ab
cresc.
f
5


124
cresc.
ff
serve
the liv - ing
cresc.
ff
124
B♭
1
1
4
cresc.
5
126
God.
126
C
F
ff
128
C
F
C
ritard.
f

In honor of the 350th anniversary celebration of the North Parish Church of North Andover, MA
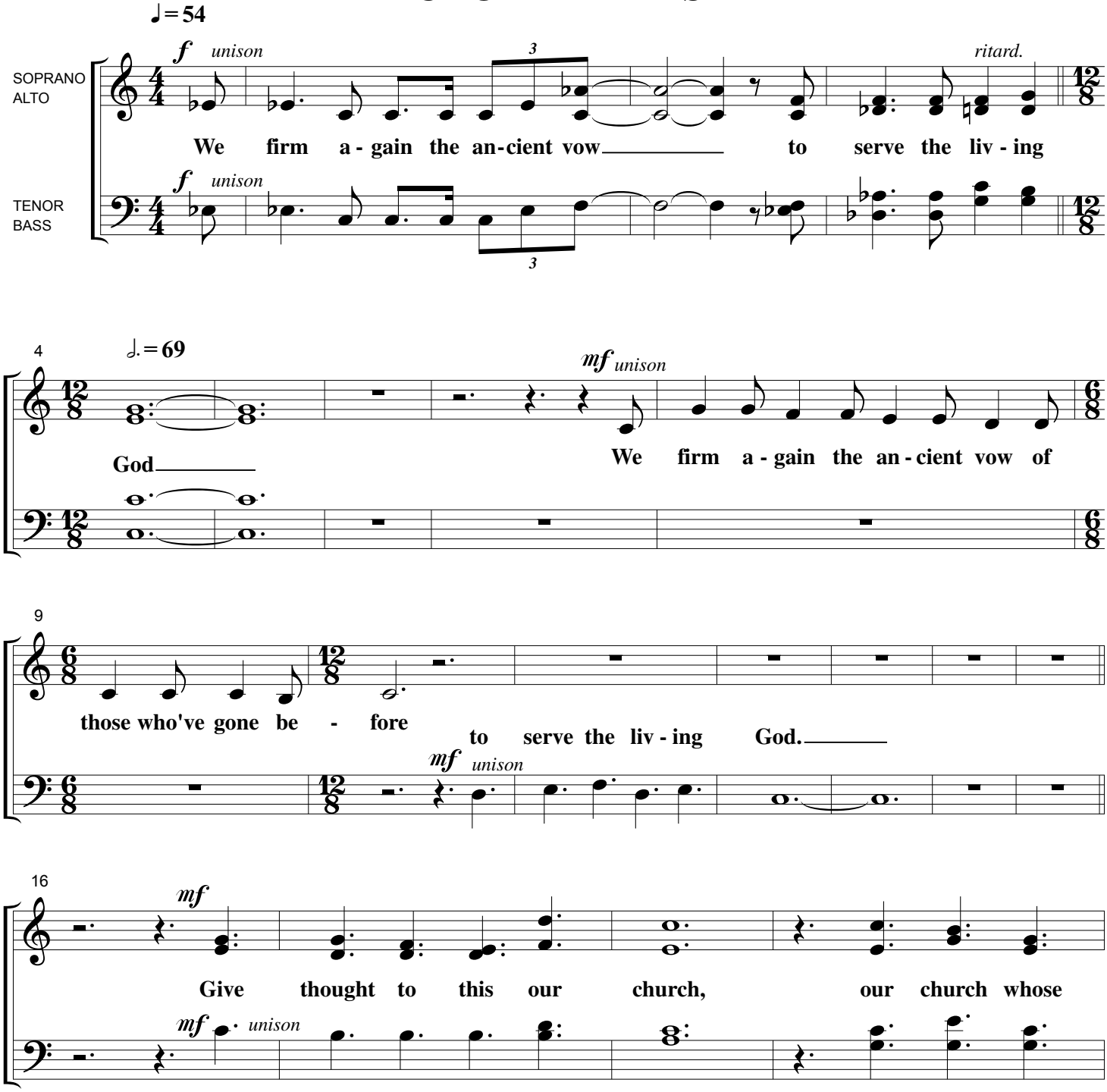
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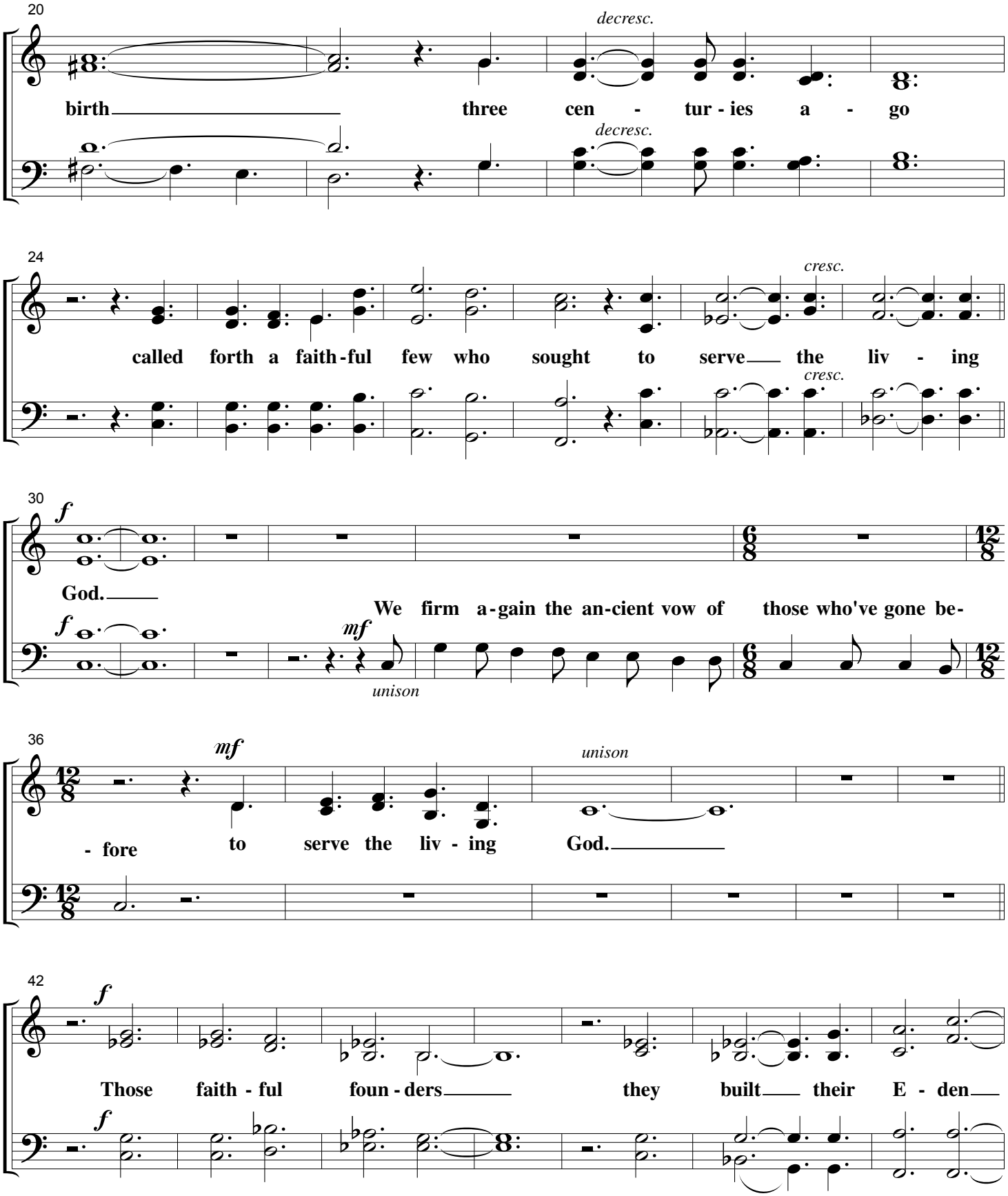
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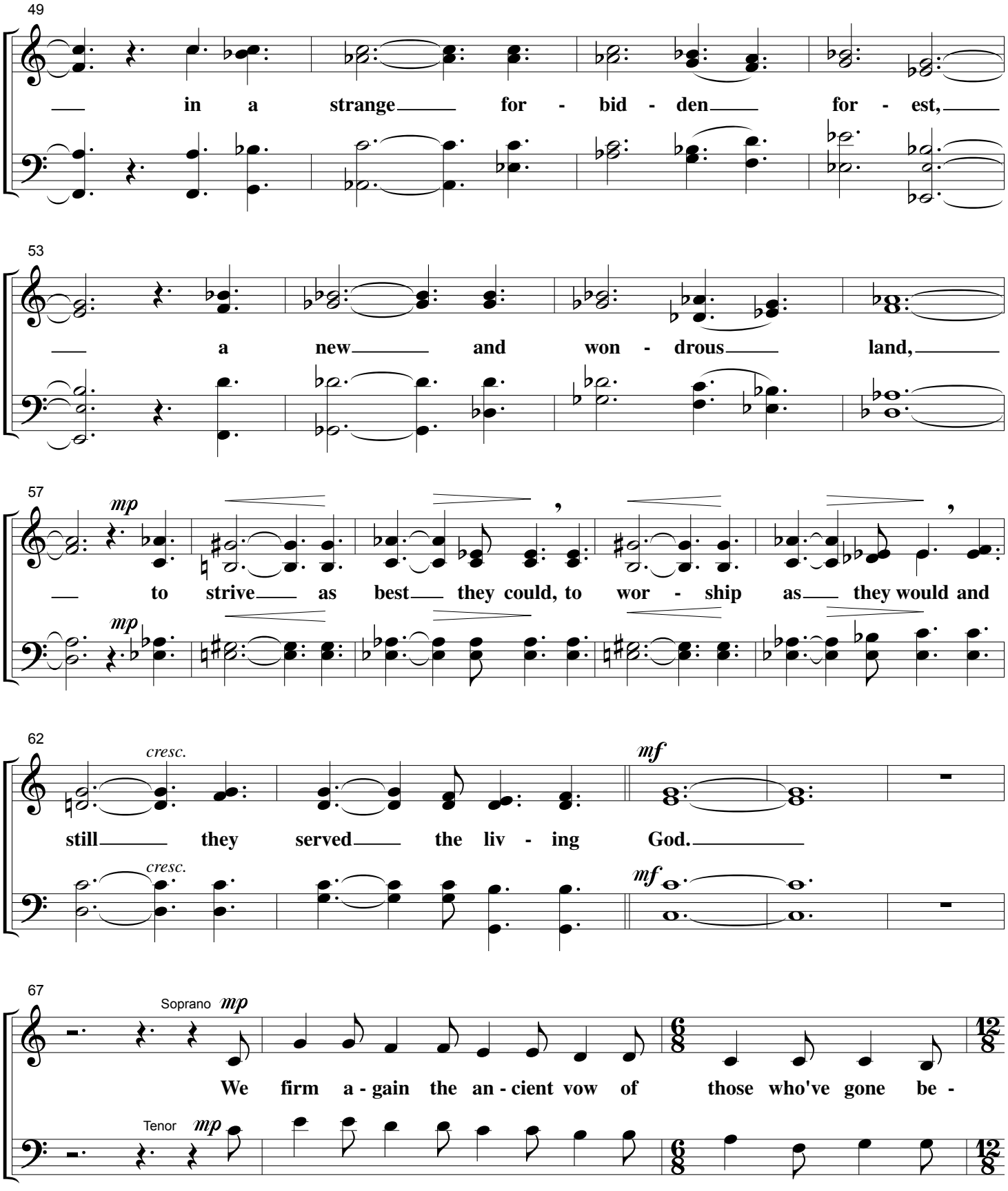
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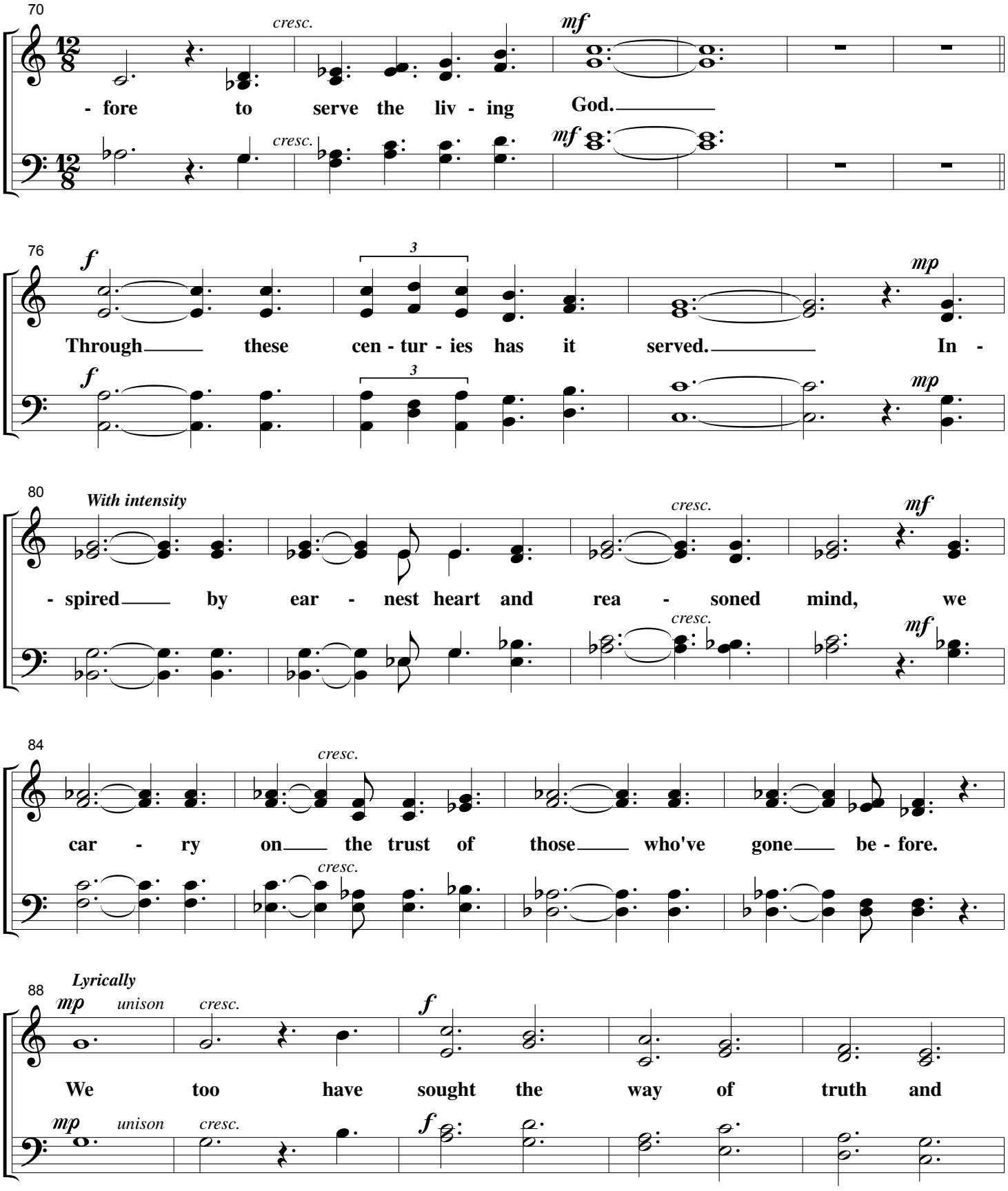
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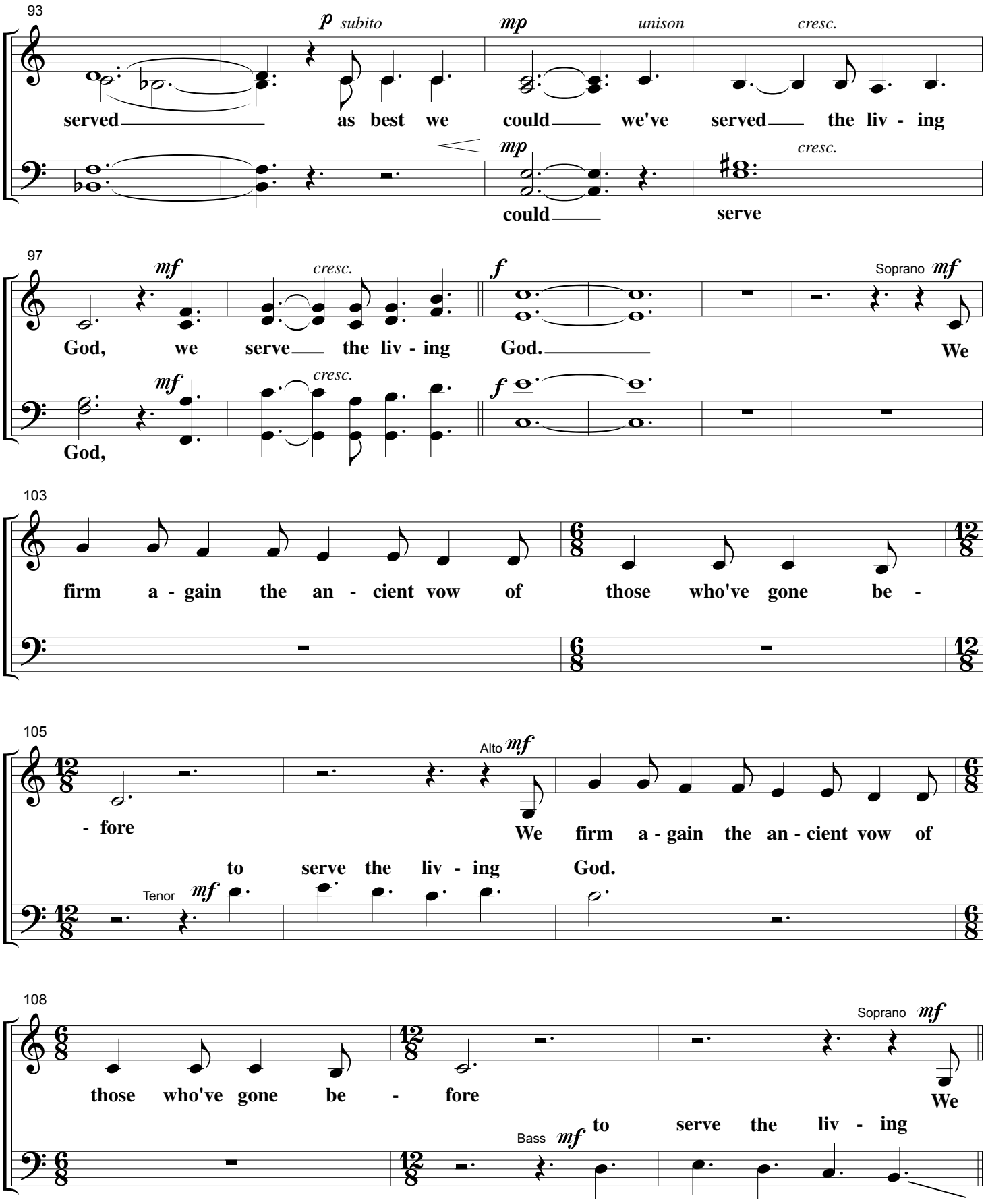


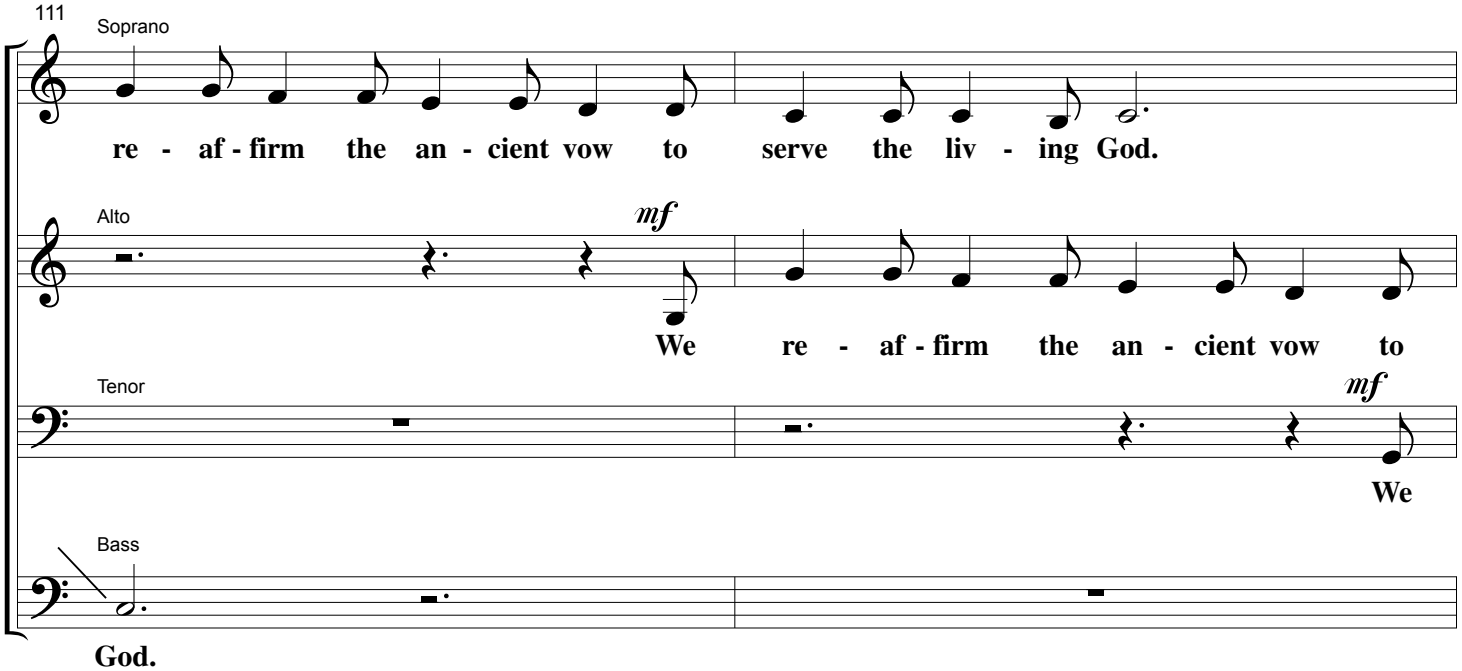
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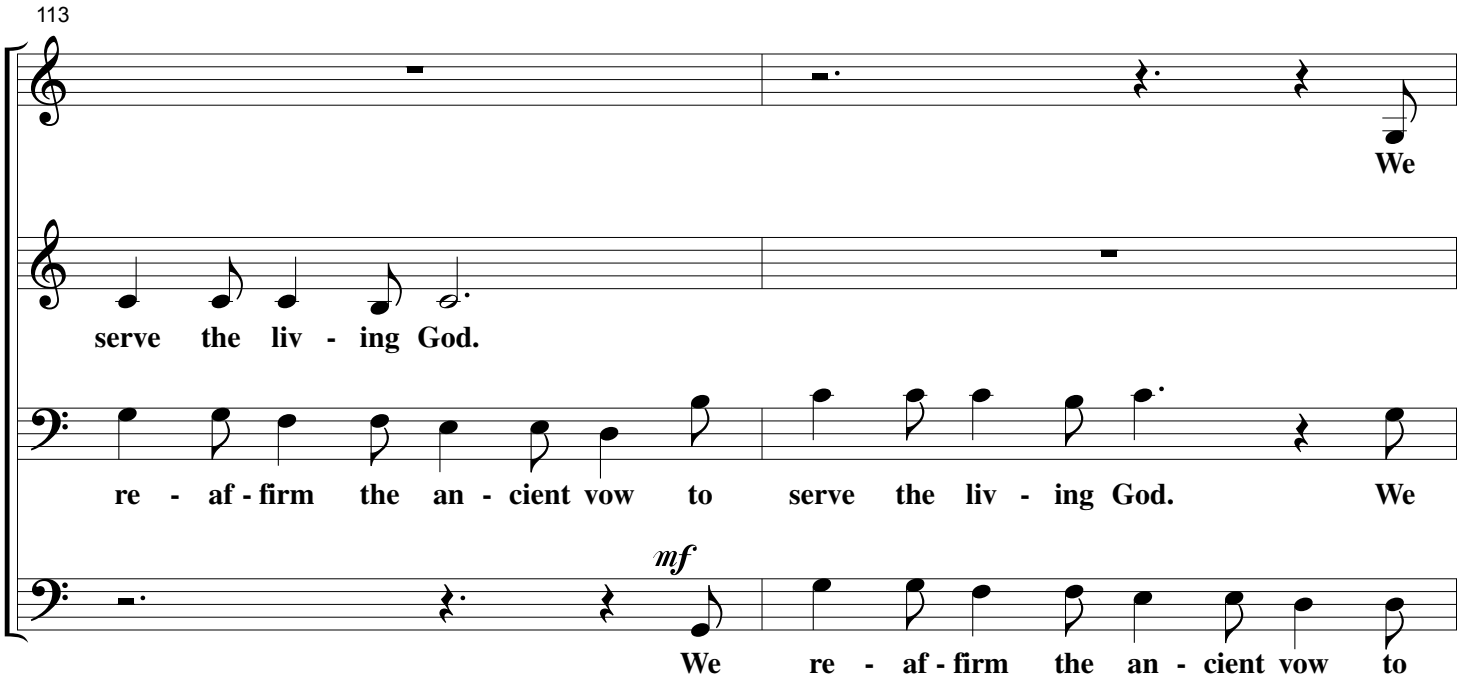

20
decresc.
birth three cen - tur - ies a - go
decresc.
24
cresc.
called forth a faith-ful few who sought to serve the liv - ing
cresc.
30
f
God.
We firm a-gain the an-cient vow of those who've gone be-
f
mf
unison
36
mf
unison
- fore to serve the liv - ing God.
42
f
Those faith - ful foun - ders they built their E - den
f
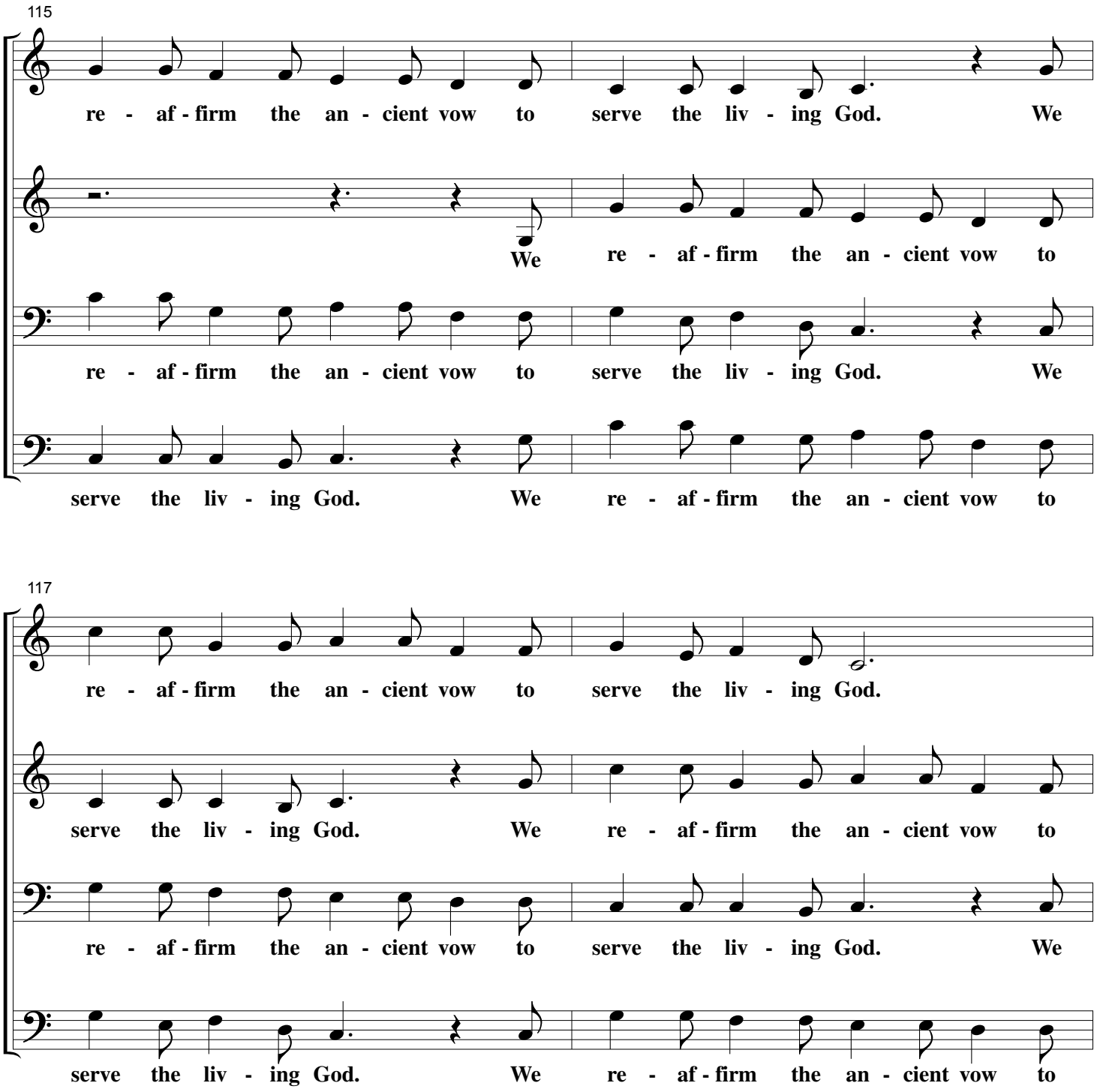

49
in a strange for - bid - den for - est,
53
a new and won - drous land,
57
mp
to strive as best they could, to wor - ship as they would and
mp
62
cresc.
still they served the liv - ing God.
cresc.
mf
mf
67
Soprano
mp
We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
Tenor
mp
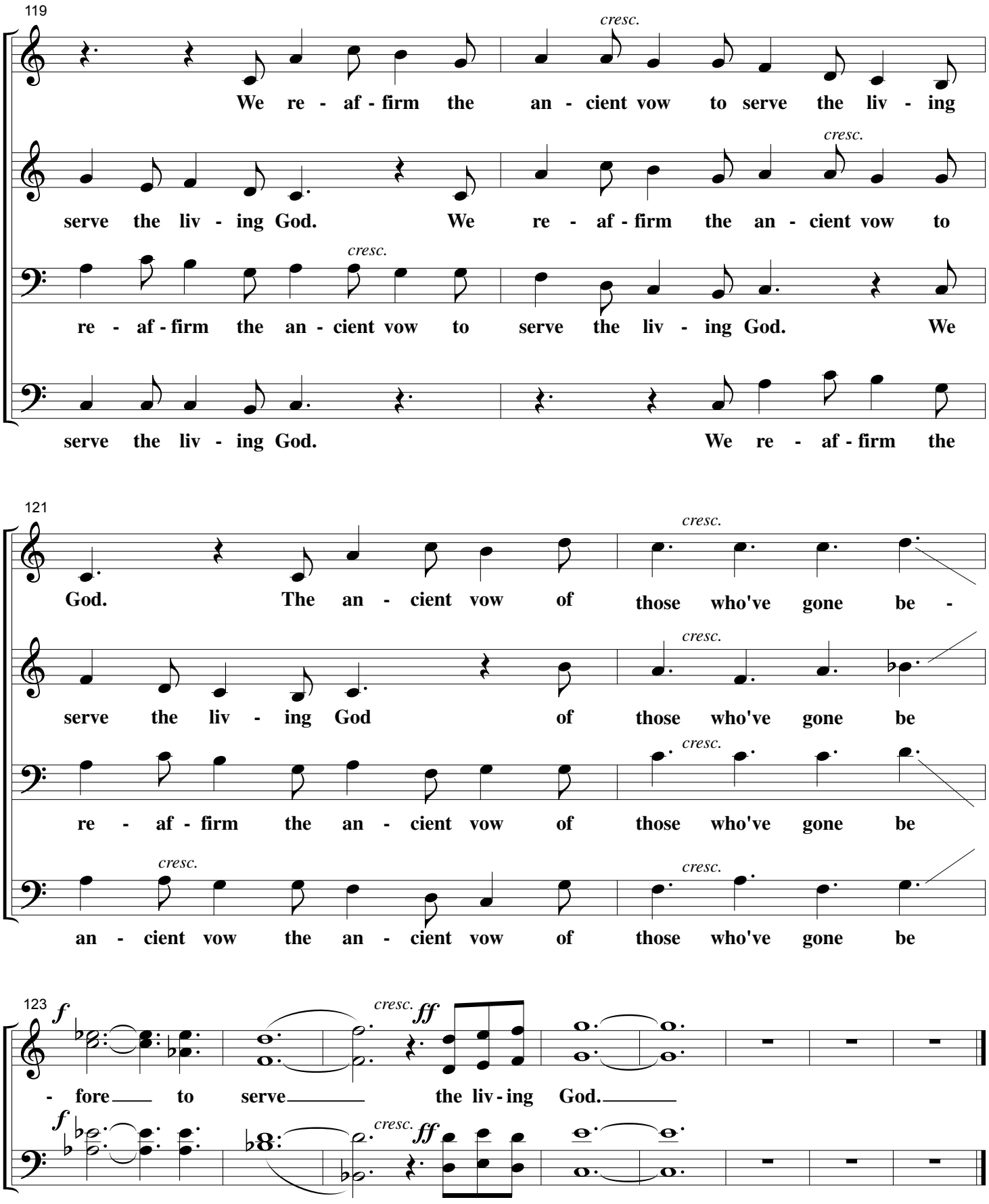

70
cresc.
mf
- fore to serve the liv - ing God.
76
f
3
mp
Through these cen - tur - ies has it served. In -
80
With intensity
cresc.
mf
- spired by ear - nest heart and rea - soned mind, we
84
cresc.
car - ry on the trust of those who've gone be - fore.
88
Lyrically
mp unison
cresc.
f
We too have sought the way of truth and


93
p subito
mp
unison
cresc.
served as best we could we've served the liv - ing
mp
cresc.
could serve
97
mf
cresc.
f
Soprano mf
God, we serve the liv - ing God. We
mf
cresc.
f
God,
103
firm a - gain the an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
105
- fore
Alto mf
We firm a - gain the an - cient vow of
to serve the liv - ing God.
Tenor mf
108
those who've gone be - fore
Soprano mf
We
to serve the liv - ing
Bass mf


111
Soprano
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.
Alto
mf
We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
Tenor
mf
We
Bass
God.


113
We
serve the liv - ing God.
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
mf
We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to


115
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
117
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God.
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to


119
cresc.
We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the an - cient vow to
re - af - firm the an - cient vow to serve the liv - ing God. We
serve the liv - ing God. We re - af - firm the
121
God. The an - cient vow of those who've gone be -
serve the liv - ing God of those who've gone be
re - af - firm the an - cient vow of those who've gone be
an - cient vow the an - cient vow of those who've gone be
123
f
- fore to serve the liv - ing God.
ff

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