



# **Ring the Bell, Watchman!**

**Henry Clay Work  
(1832-1884)**

**Henry Clay Work** (1832-1884) was born in Middletown, Connecticut, and was self-taught in music. He apprenticed as a printer in Hartford and worked as a printer with Root & Cady in Chicago, specializing in setting musical type, and worked for their periodical "Song Messenger of the Northwest." He later worked as a musician in New York City. He died in Hartford. He was a successful song writer during and after the war. His most well known songs are those related to the Civil War, but he also wrote many others and he enjoyed writing lyrics in various dialects. Some of his most popular songs were "Brave Boys Are They!" (1861), "Kingdom Coming!" (1862), "Grafted into the Army" (1862), "Little Major" (1862), "Babylon Is Fallen!" (1863), "Come Home, Father!" (1864), "Marching Through Georgia" (1865) and "Grandfather's Clock" (1876). He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1970.

High in the belfry the old sexton stands,  
Grasping the rope with his thorn bony hands:  
Fixed is his gaze, as by some magic spell,  
Till he hears the distant murmur, Ring, ring the bell.

*"Ring the bell, watchman! ring! ring! ring!  
Yes, yes, the good news is now on the wing;  
Yes, yes! they come, and with tidings to tell—  
Glorious and blessed tidings— Ring, ring the bell!"*

Baring his long silver locks to the breeze,  
First for a moment he drops on his knees,  
Then with a vigor that few could excel,  
Answers he the welcome bidding, Ring, ring the bell.

Hear! from the hilltop the first signal gun  
Thunders the word that some great deed is done;  
Hear! thro' the valley the long echoes swell,  
Ever and anon repeating, Ring, ring the bell.

Bonfires are blazing and rockets ascend—  
No meager triumph such tokens portend;  
Shout, shout! my brothers, for "all, all is well!"  
'Tis the universal chorus, Ring, ring the bell.

# Ring the Bell, Watchman!

H. C. Work

With energy

S High in the bel - fry the old sex - ton stands, Grasp - ing the rope with his

A High in the bel - fry the old sex - ton stands, Grasp - ing the rope with his

T High in the bel - fry the old sex - ton stands, Grasp - ing the rope with his

B High in the bel - fry the old sex - ton stands, Grasp - ing the rope with his

4  
S thon bo - ny hands: Fix'd is his gaze, as by some mag - ic spell,

A thon bo - ny hands: Fix'd is his gaze, as by some mag - ic spell,

T thon bo - ny hands: Fix'd is his gaze, as by some mag - ic spell,

B thon bo - ny hands: Fix'd is his gaze, as by some mag - ic spell,

7  
S Till he hears the dis - tant mur - mur, Ring, ring the bell.

A Till he hears the dis - tant mur - mur, Ring, ring the bell.

T Till he hears the dis - tant mur - mur, Ring, ring the bell.

B Till he hears the dis - tant mur - mur, Ring, ring the bell.

# Ring the Bell, Watchman!

## CHORUS

9

S "Ring the bell, watch - man! ring! ring! ring! Yes, yes, the good news is

A "Ring the bell, watch - man! ring! ring! ring! Yes, yes, the good news is

T "Ring the bell, watch - man! ring! ring! ring! Yes, yes, the good news is

B "Ring the bell, watch - man! ring! ring! ring! Yes, yes, the good news is

12

S now on the wing; Yes, yes! they come, and with tid - ings to tell—

A now on the wing; Yes, yes! they come, and with tid - ings to tell—

T now on the wing; Yes, yes! they come, and with tid - ings to tell—

B now on the wing; Yes, yes! they come, and with tid - ings to tell—

15

S Glo - ri - ous and bless - ed tid - ings— Ring, ring the bell!"

A Glo - ri - ous and bless - ed tid - ings— Ring, ring the bell!"

T Glo - ri - ous and bless - ed tid - ings— Ring, ring the bell!"

B Glo - ri - ous and bless - ed tid - ings— Ring, ring the bell!"

# Ring the Bell, Watchman!

## VERSE 2

17

S Bar - ing his long sil - ver locks to the breeze, First for a mo - ment he

A Bar - ing his long sil - ver locks to the breeze, First for a mo - ment he

T Bar - ing his long sil - ver locks to the breeze, First for a mo - ment he

B Bar - ing his long sil - ver locks to the breeze, First for a mo - ment he

20

S drops on his knees, Then with a vig - or that few could ex - cel,

A drops on his knees, Then with a vig - or that few could ex - cel,

T drops on his knees, Then with a vig - or that few could ex - cel,

B drops on his knees, Then with a vig - or that few could ex - cel,

23

S An - swers he the wel - come bid - ding, Ring, ring the bell.

A An - swers he the wel - come bid - ding, Ring, ring the bell.

T An - swers he the wel - come bid - ding, Ring, ring the bell.

B An - swers he the wel - come bid - ding, Ring, ring the bell.

## Ring the Bell, Watchman!

## VERSE 3

25

S Hear! from the hill - top the first sig - nal gun Thun - ders the word that some

A Hear! from the hill - top the first sig - nal gun Thun - ders the word that some

T Hear! from the hill - top the first sig - nal gun Thun - ders the word that some

B Hear! from the hill - top the first sig - nal gun Thun - ders the word that some

28

S great deed is done; Hear! thro' the val - ley the long ech - oes swell,

A great deed is done; Hear! thro' the val - ley the long ech - oes swell,

T great deed is done; Hear! thro' the val - ley the long ech - oes swell,

B great deed is done; Hear! thro' the val - ley the long ech - oes swell,

31

S Ev - er and a - non re - peat - ing, Ring, ring the bell.

A Ev - er and a - non re - peat - ing, Ring, ring the bell.

T Ev - er and a - non re - peat - ing, Ring, ring the bell.

B Ev - er and a - non re - peat - ing, Ring, ring the bell.

# Ring the Bell, Watchman!

## VERSE 4

33

S Bon - fires are blaz - ing and rock - ets as - cend— No mea - ger tri - umph such

A Bon - fires are blaz - ing and rock - ets as - cend— No mea - ger tri - umph such

T Bon - fires are blaz - ing and rock - ets as - cend— No mea - ger tri - umph such

B Bon - fires are blaz - ing and rock - ets as - cend— No mea - ger tri - umph such

36

S to - kens por - tend; Shout, shout! my broth - ers, for "all, all is well!"

A to - kens por - tend; Shout, shout! my broth - ers, for "all, all is well!"

T to - kens por - tend; Shout, shout! my broth - ers, for "all, all is well!"

B to - kens por - tend; Shout, shout! my broth - ers, for "all, all is well!"

39

S 'Tis the u - ni - ver - sal cho - rus, Ring, ring the bell.

A 'Tis the u - ni - ver - sal cho - rus, Ring, ring the bell.

T 'Tis the u - ni - ver - sal cho - rus, Ring, ring the bell.

B 'Tis the u - ni - ver - sal cho - rus, Ring, ring the bell.

#### TERMS OF USE

These editions are available as a service to the choral community, offering inexpensive access to public domain literature. Choir resources can purchase other literature still under copyright, especially to support those creating and publishing new compositions and arrangements. These editions have been created using public domain sources under U. S. copyright law. Out of respect to the research, time and effort invested:

- please print and issue an edition in its entirety, retaining notices, attributions, and logos.
- please do not consider this edition a source for creating another edition.

If performed, sending a copy of the concert program would be a valuable affirmation. If recorded, notification and attribution would be appropriate professional courtesies and a copy of the recording would be greatly appreciated!

For a full description of these requests and more scores, visit:

[www.shorchor.net](http://www.shorchor.net)

David Anderson  
SHORCHOR Music  
1706 NE 177th St.  
Shoreline, WA 98155 USA

