

The Question of Self Defense



*Are Christians Scripturally Authorized to
Defend Themselves Using Lethal force?*

The Question of Self Defense

The Need For **Positive**
Divine Authority - Col. 3:16

NOT - Think so's /
Opinions / Feelings ...

HOLY BIBLE

*Are Christians Scripturally Authorized to
Defend Themselves Using Lethal force?*

The Question of Self Defense

Acting out of **REVENGE** is NEVER authorized — Rom 12:17-21

Acting out of **PRIDE** protecting our HONOR NEVER authorized — Mt 5:39

Acting out of **SELFISHNESS** is NEVER authorized — Mt 5:40

Acting out of **HATRED** is NEVER authorized — Mt 5:43-48; Rom 12:14

The Question of Self Defense

BUT - do Christians have the AUTHORITY, (permission from God & government), to protect ourselves and others to save lives?

Are Christians Scripturally Authorized to Defend Themselves Using Lethal force?

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 (NKJV)

¹ To everything *there is* a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: ² A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck *what is* planted; ³ A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; ⁴ A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; ⁵ A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; ⁷ A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; ⁸ A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.

The Question of Self Defense



The **Charleston church shooting** was a **mass shooting** in which white supremacist **Dylann Roof** murdered nine African Americans at the **Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church** in downtown **Charleston, South Carolina, United States**, on the evening of **June 17, 2015**.

The Question of Self Defense

On Sept. 24, 2017, Emanuel Kidega Samson, opened fire at the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ in Antioch, Tennessee, outside of Nashville. Six people (between 60 and 83) were injured. One, Melanie Smith (aged 39), was killed. The gunman was confronted by Robert Engle (aged 22), who was pistol-whipped. During the ensuing struggle, Samson accidentally shot himself. Engle ran to his car to get his own gun and pointed it at the wounded Samson until police arrived.



The Question of Self Defense

On November 5, 2017, a [mass shooting](#) occurred at the First [Baptist Church](#) in [Sutherland Springs, Texas](#), about 30 miles (48 km) east of the city of [San Antonio](#).^[1] The gunman was 26-year-old Devin Patrick Kelley of nearby [New Braunfels](#), who killed 26 and injured 20. He was shot twice by a civilian man as he exited the church. Fleeing in his SUV, he crashed after a high-speed chase and was found dead with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.



The Question of Self Defense



2
0
1
7
M
A
S
S

S
H
O
O
T
I
N
G
S

1. Bronx-Lebanon Hospital attack
2. Burnette Chapel shooting
3. Clovis library shooting
4. 2017 Congressional baseball shooting
5. Fort Lauderdale airport shooting
6. Freeman High School shooting
7. 2017 Las Vegas shooting
8. Little Rock nightclub shooting
9. 2017 Mississippi shootings
10. Orlando factory shooting
11. 2017 Plano shooting
12. Sutherland Springs church shooting
13. UPS shooting in San Francisco
14. Weis Markets shooting

The Question of Self Defense

There have been 18 “church” related shootings since 1999

There are an estimated 378,000 congregations in the United States, which means the likelihood of any congregation being involved in a shooting in any year is approximately one in 126,000 or 0.0000079 percent.

THERE HAS BEEN 2 IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS

GUARDING AGAINST **OVER-REACTION**

GUARDING AGAINST **FEAR**

REALITY DEMANDS **PREPARATION**

The Question of Self Defense

THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

SANCTITY OF LIFE



Genesis 9:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a *reckoning*; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. ⁶

“Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be
shed; For in the image of God
He made man.

The Question of Self Defense

THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

SANCTITY OF LIFE



Romans 13:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ ... For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ²

Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil.

The Question of Self Defense

THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

SANCTITY OF LIFE



Romans 13:1–4 (NKJV)

Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for **he does not bear the sword in vain**; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

The Question of Self Defense

THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

SANCTITY
— OF —
LIFE



Every human life is
valuable - Mat 6:26

The LAWFUL Killing of a
murderer is NOT a
devaluation of human
life - Gen 9:6

To SAVE a life is to
value that life!

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF RESPONSIBILITY

SANCTITY
— OF —
LIFE



As Christians we are called to value the image of God in the lives of others even as we protect the weak and vulnerable (Ps. 82:3-4; Prov. 31:8-9; Isa. 1:17; 1 Tim. 5:8)

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF RESPONSIBILITY

SANCTITY
— OF —
LIFE



Psalm 82:3–4 (NKJV)
³ Defend the poor
and fatherless; Do
justice to the afflicted
and needy. ⁴ Deliver
the poor and needy;
Free *them* from the
hand of the wicked.

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF RESPONSIBILITY

SANCTITY
OF
LIFE



Proverbs 31:8–9 (NKJV)
8 Open your mouth for
the speechless, In the
cause of all *who are*
appointed to die. 9

Open your mouth,
judge righteously, And
plead the cause of the
poor and needy.

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF RESPONSIBILITY

SANCTITY
OF
LIFE



Isaiah 1:17 (NKJV)
17 Learn to do
good; Seek justice,
Rebuke the
oppressor; Defend
the fatherless, Plead
for the widow.

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF RESPONSIBILITY

SANCTITY
OF
LIFE



1 Timothy 5:8 (NKJV)
8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF RESPONSIBILITY

The One Responsible For The Blood Shed Is The Criminal, Not the one defending himself



Exodus 22:2 (NKJV)

2 If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, *there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed.*

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF RESPONSIBILITY

**The One Responsible For The Blood Shed Is
The Criminal, Not the one defending himself**



The guilty sinner worthy of death -
Lev. 20:9-16;

The impenitent sinner - Ezek. 18:13

The watchman & the watched -
Ezek. 3:17-21; 33:1-6

The Jews who rejected the
gospel- Acts 18:6

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF RESPONSIBILITY

Proverbs 24:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Deliver *those* who are drawn toward death, And hold back *those* stumbling to the slaughter. ¹² If you say, “Surely we did not know this,” Does not He who weighs the hearts consider *it*? He who keeps your soul, does He *not* know *it*? And will He *not* render to *each* man according to his deeds?

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF LOVE

Luke 10:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ” ²⁸ And He said to him, “**You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.**”

cf. Rom 13:9 Gal 5:14; Jam 2:8



The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF LOVE



The Good Samaritan

1. A man is robbed, beaten and left for dead - Lk 10:30
2. A priest and Levite did nothing to help the man who had fallen before thieves - Lk 10:31,32
3. A Samaritan helped him - Lk 10:33-35

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF LOVE



James 2:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does *it* profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF LOVE



**James 4:17
(NKJV)**

¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF LOVE

The Necessary Implication

1. If our neighbor is in need, love demands we do what we can to help.
2. If our family, friend or neighbor is threatened, they have a need! - Wouldn't love demand we do what we can to protect them?



The Question of Self Defense

THE DEMAND OF LOVE



The Necessary Implication

1. Providing protection when needed is necessarily implied by the principle of love - (if able)
2. The necessary instrument or method used to protect them would be an expedient dependent on opportunity & ability. *(including ones conscience)*

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“Leave such things to the worldly ...”

1. All men amenable to the law of Christ - there are not two laws, one for the believer and another for the unbeliever - Mt 28:18
2. Some argue the government, a soldier, or a policeman can use deadly force - Rom 13

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“Leave such things to the worldly ...”

1. Is there a circumstance where a non-christian may take the life of an evil doer? — Gen 9:6; Ro. 13:4
2. If no, then there is no case where lethal force can be justified. / If yes, then there may be a case in which a Christian CAN use lethal force. — Luke 22:36

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Must Love Our Enemies ...”

1. Yes, we **MUST** love our enemies - Mat 5:44
2. The Jews were commanded to love their enemies, yet the death penalty — Lev. 20:9-16
3. Did God not love Nadab & Abihu, or Ananias and Sapphira? The LOST?

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections

“We Must Love Our Enemies ...”

1. Should the love for my enemy supersede my love for my neighbor?
2. Killing another person out of necessity should be the last thing in the world any Christian would ever want to do - why? Because we should love as God loves!



The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“The Golden Rule ...”

1. Matthew 7:12 - Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
2. Would you want someone to help me if you your life was in jeopardy?
3. Would it be wrong for me to call for help?

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections

“Do No Harm ...”



1. Rom 13:9,10 “... and if there *is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; ...”
2. Allowing someone to murder my neighbor would be doing him harm.

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Are Forbidden To Retaliate ...”

Romans 12:17–21 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Are Forbidden To Retaliate ...”

Romans 12:17–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord.

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Are Forbidden To Retaliate ...”

Romans 12:17–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore *“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”* ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Are Forbidden To Retaliate ...”

Matthew 5:39–42 (NKJV)

³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person.

But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Are Forbidden To Retaliate ...”

1. REVENGE is NEVER right — Rom 12:17-21
2. Protecting our HONOR NEVER right — Mt 5:39
3. Acting out of SELFISHNESS is NEVER right — Mt 5:40
4. Acting out of HATRED is NEVER right — Mt 5:43-48; Rom 12:14

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Are Forbidden To Retaliate ...”

1. These passages, and the principles established herein, do NOT forbid acting out of love to protect ourselves and others from wicked, murderous men who are threatening to kill us.
2. The motive is the focus of these passages.

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Are Not To Engage In Carnal Warfare ...”

1. Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4 - our warfare & weapons are spiritual in nature ...TRUE
2. John 18:36 - The kingdom is NOT to be defended or strengthened by carnal weapons ... TRUE 2 Corinthians 10:4

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



“We Are Not To Engage In Carnal Warfare ...”

1. We are NOT to be of the world, but we are yet IN the world — John 17:15,16
2. It is true the spiritual kingdom is NOT to be defended or propagated with carnal weapons, but they may be needed to protect our physical lives.

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



**“We Are Not To
Engage In Carnal
Warfare ...”**

Luke 22:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ Then He said to them,
“But now, he who has a
money bag, let him take
it, and likewise a
knapsack; and he who
has no sword, let him sell
his garment and buy one.

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



What Would They Need A Sword For?

1. Not to spread the borders of the kingdom!
2. Not in resistance against the temple guard, resisting persecution!
3. Not to join forces with the zealots against Rome!
4. Not to defend their pride!
5. Not to fight their enemies!

The Question of Self Defense

Answering Objections



What Would They Need A Sword For?

1. The only thing left is for self protection -
 - A. The streets of Jerusalem were dangerous -
 - B. Jesus would not be with them personally to protect them.

The Question of Self Defense

Implications of Radical Pacifism



1. A Christian would be as equally guilty of sin as the criminal if he used force to protect himself or another being attacked. Ex 22:2
2. If you are being attacked, you would have to call for a non Christian for help - A Christian could not.
3. If a police officer sins in using force to protect us, then we sin when we call for them to protect us.

The Question of Self Defense

Final Thoughts



1. In Exodus 22:2-3 we see God speak to the acceptability of defending one's home against a thief.
2. In Nehemiah 4:16-18 when the city was being rebuilt the men divided the labor in such a way that some took up spears, shields, and bows while others worked.

The Question of Self Defense

Final Thoughts



3. In Esther the Jews were instructed to defend themselves against their enemies (Est. 8:11; 9:5)
4. Jesus instructed his disciples to sell their cloak and buy swords (Lk. 22:36).
5. Love demands we do what we can to preserve life / to help those in need whom we can.

The Question of Self Defense

Final Thoughts

SANCTITY
OF
LIFE



What is more important or more valuable - physical or spiritual life?

What should we be more concerned with - the physical or spiritual life of ourselves, our neighbor, and even our enemy?

God Calling Yet

329

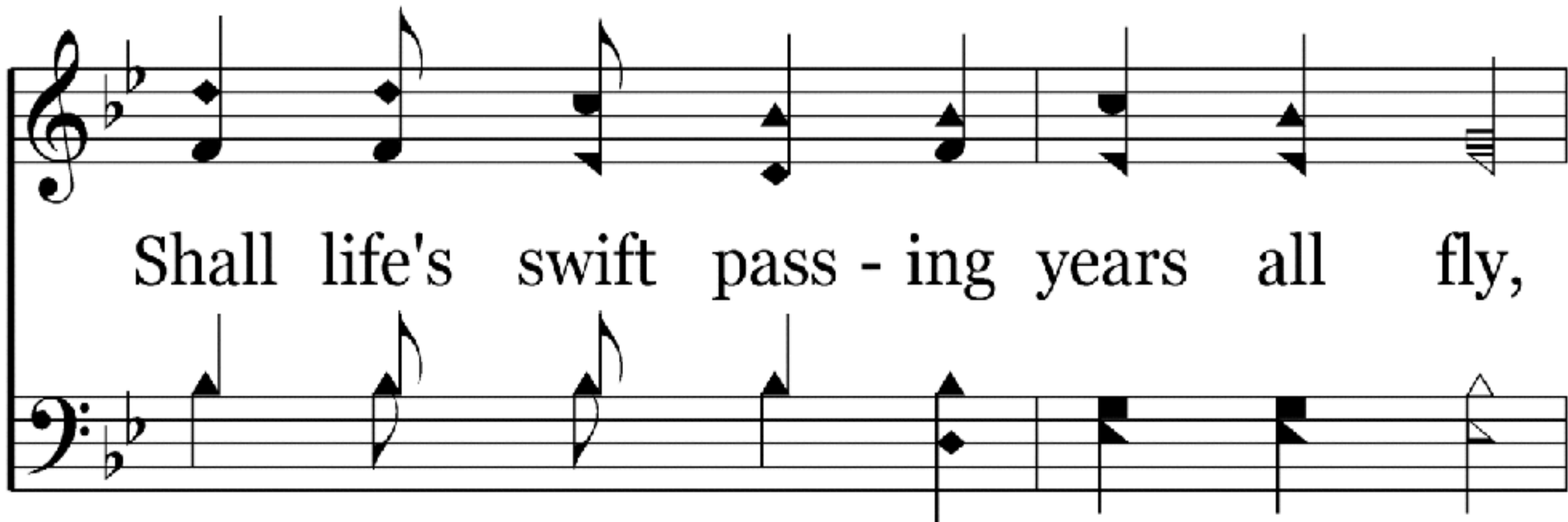


1. God call - ing yet! Shall I not hear?



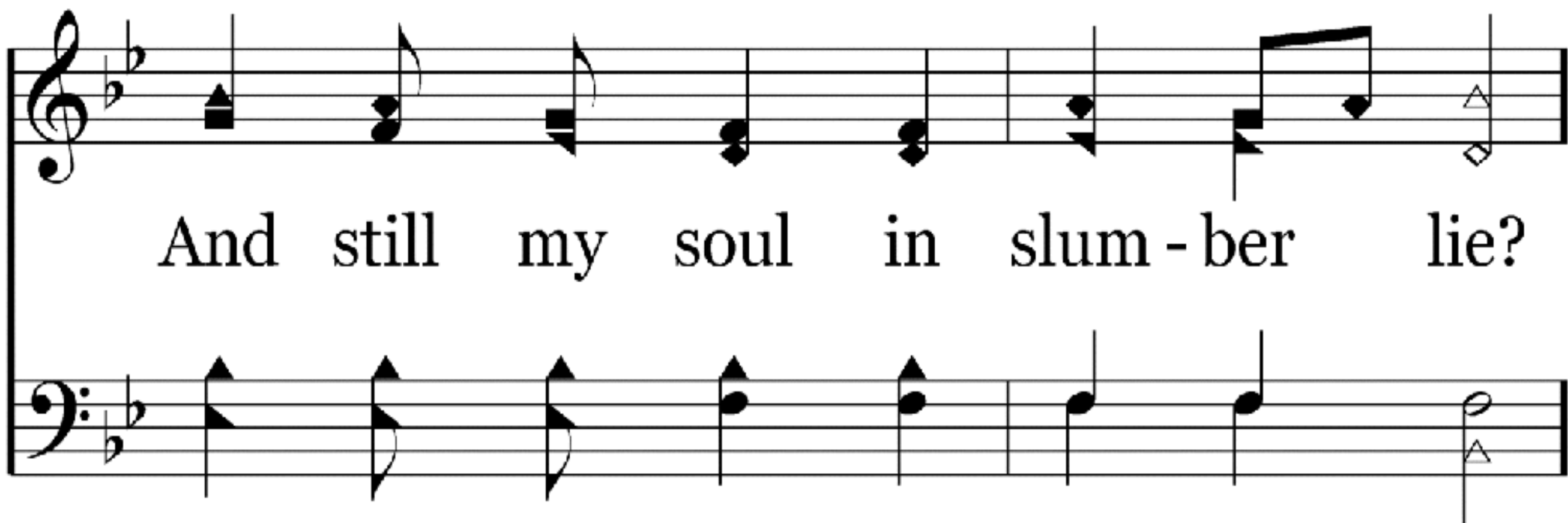
Earth's pleas - ures shall I still hold dear?





Shall life's swift pass - ing years all fly,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Shall life's swift pass - ing years all fly,' are centered between the two staves.



And still my soul in slum - ber lie?

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The treble staff features a rising melodic line in the final measure, and the bass staff concludes with a half note. The lyrics 'And still my soul in slum - ber lie?' are centered between the two staves.

Chorus

God is call - ing yet, is

call - ing, call - ing

God is call-ing yet, Heed His plead-ing voice,

The musical score is written for two systems. Each system consists of a treble staff and a bass staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first system contains the lyrics 'God is call - ing yet, is'. The second system contains the lyrics 'call - ing, call - ing' on the first line and 'God is call-ing yet, Heed His plead-ing voice,' on the second line. The music features various note values, including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and accidentals.

yet, God is call-ing yet, God is call-ing yet, is

rit.

call - ing, Sin-ner heed His plead-ing voice.
God is call-ing yet,

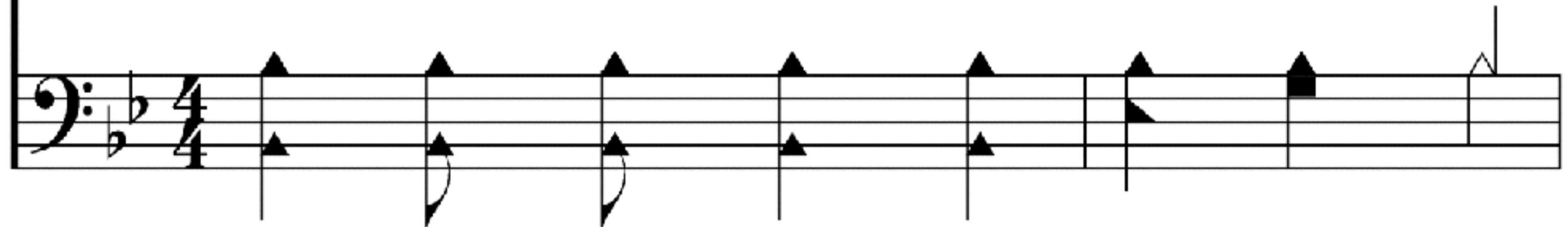
End of Verse 1

God Calling Yet

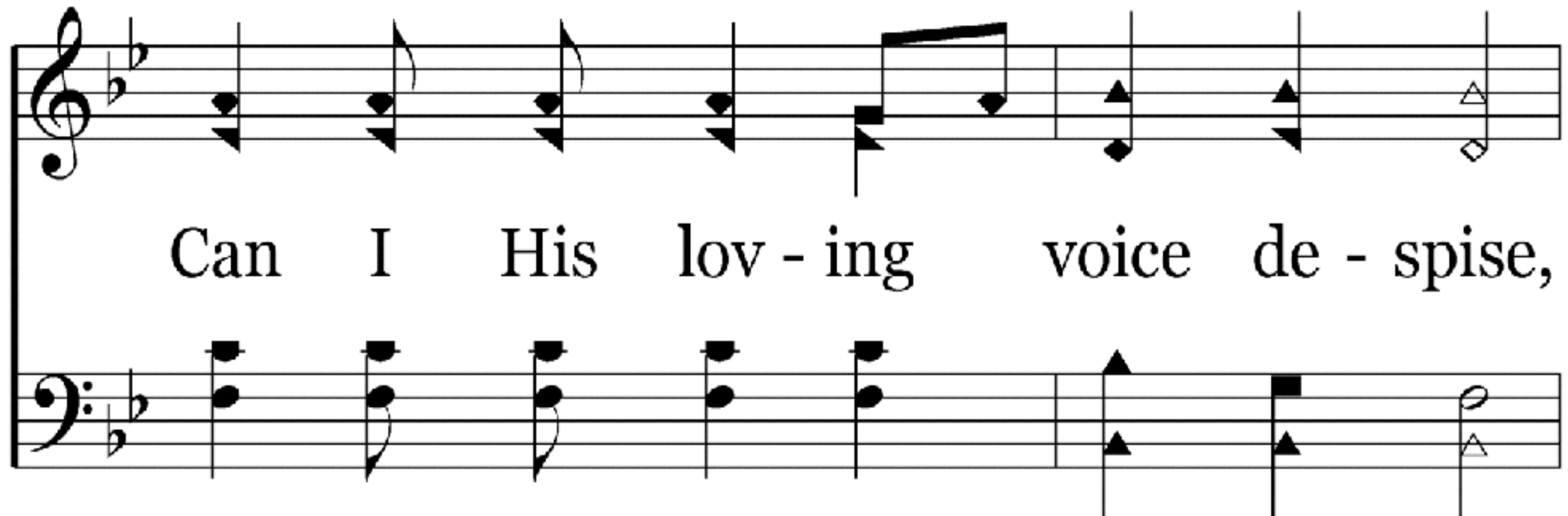
329

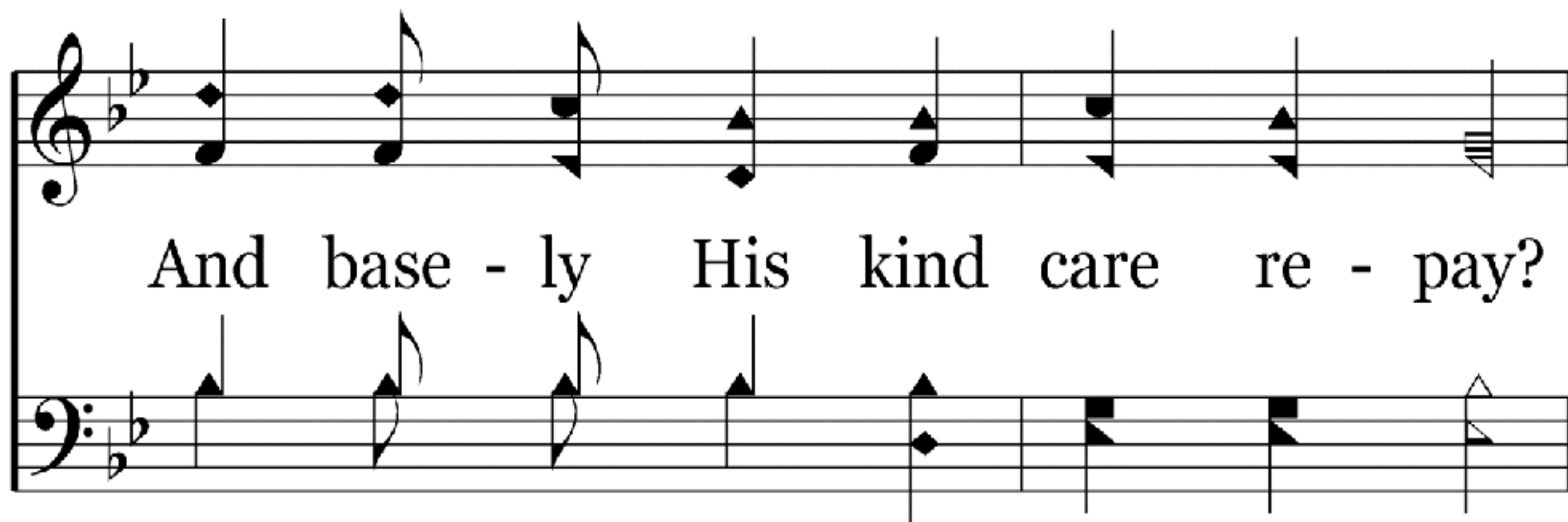


2. God call - ing yet! Shall I not rise?



Can I His lov - ing voice de - spise,





And base - ly His kind care re - pay?

This musical system consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a quarter rest. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.



He calls me still; can I de - lay?

This musical system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The treble staff features a rising eighth-note scale in the final measure, while the bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.

Chorus

God is call - ing yet, is

call - ing, call - ing

God is call-ing yet, Heed His plead-ing voice,

The musical score is written for two systems. Each system consists of a treble staff and a bass staff, both in the key of B-flat major (two flats). The first system contains the lyrics 'God is call - ing yet, is'. The second system contains the lyrics 'call - ing, call - ing' on the first line and 'God is call-ing yet, Heed His plead-ing voice,' on the second line. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are centered under the corresponding musical notes.

yet, God is call-ing yet, God is call-ing yet, is

rit.

This system contains the first two measures of the hymn. The vocal melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first measure ends with a fermata over the word 'yet,'. The second measure begins with a diamond-shaped symbol (likely a repeat sign) over the word 'God'.

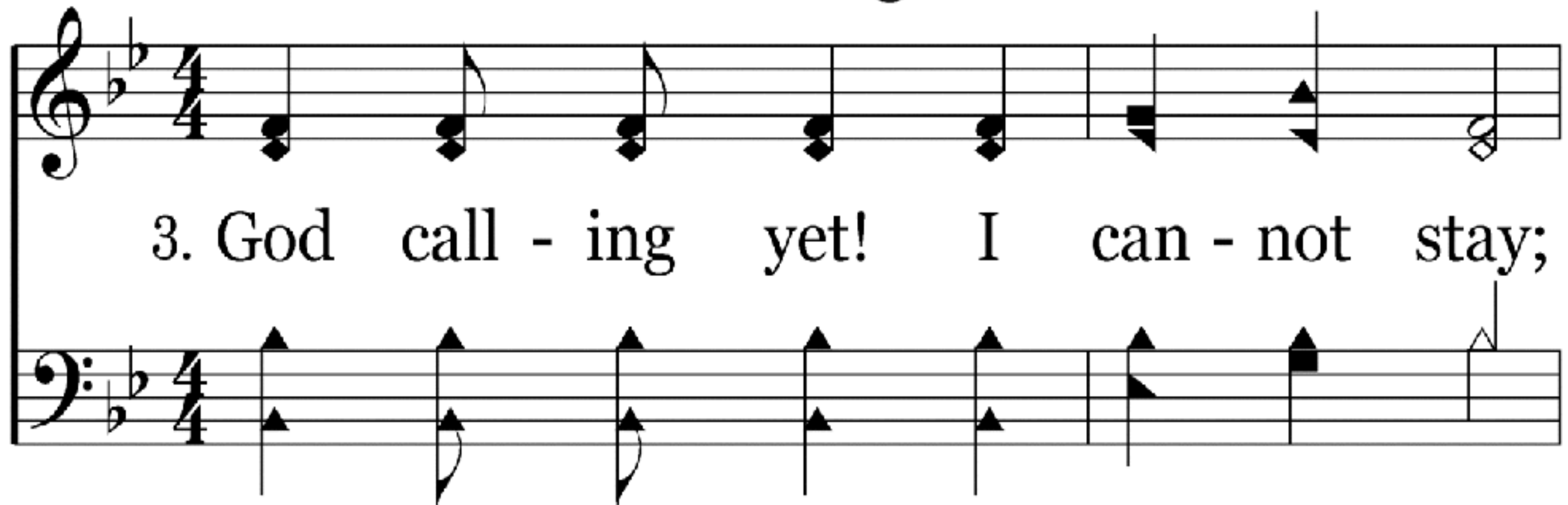
call - ing, Sin-ner heed His plead-ing voice.
God is call-ing yet,

This system contains the next two measures of the hymn. The vocal melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass line continues in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first measure of this system contains a hyphenated word 'call - ing,'. The second measure begins with the word 'God'.

End of Verse 2

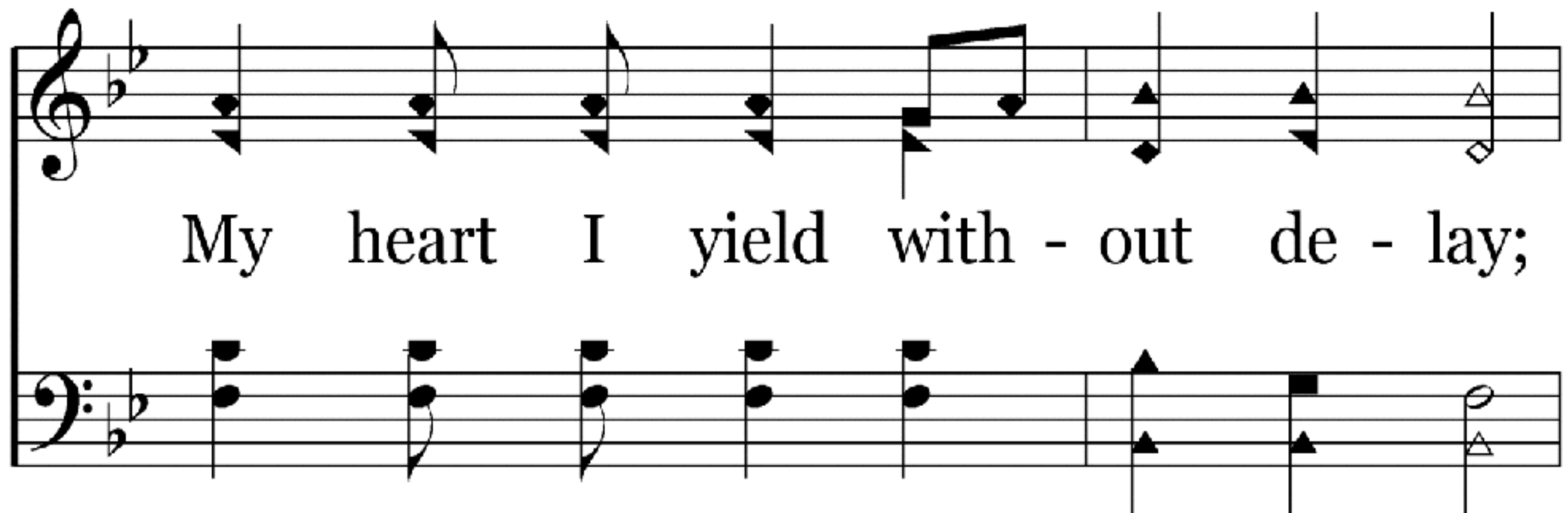
God Calling Yet

329



3. God call - ing yet! I can - not stay;

The first system of music is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The treble staff features a melody of eighth notes, while the bass staff provides a simple accompaniment of eighth notes. The lyrics are centered below the staves.



My heart I yield with - out de - lay;

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The treble staff shows a slight melodic variation in the fifth measure, and the bass staff maintains its steady eighth-note pattern. The lyrics are centered below the staves.



Vain world, fare - well, from thee I part;

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.



The voice of God has reached my heart.

The second system of the musical score also consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. The melody continues from the first system. The lyrics are centered between the two staves.

Chorus

God is call - ing yet, is

call - ing, call - ing

God is call-ing yet, Heed His plead-ing voice,

The image shows a musical score for a hymn chorus. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature. The lyrics 'God is call - ing yet, is' are written below the treble staff. The bass staff has a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. The lyrics 'God is call - ing yet, is' are written below the bass staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. The lyrics 'call - ing, call - ing' are written below the treble staff. The bass staff has a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. The lyrics 'God is call-ing yet, Heed His plead-ing voice,' are written below the bass staff.

yet, God is call-ing yet, God is call-ing yet, is

rit.

call - ing, Sin-ner heed His plead-ing voice.
God is call-ing yet,

End of Song

GOD BLESS YOU, GO WITH GOD

*The Lord bless thee, and keep thee...and be gracious
unto thee...and give thee peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

God Bless You, Go With God



This is my dai - ly prayer, God bless you,



go with God, Hold fast His might-y hand,



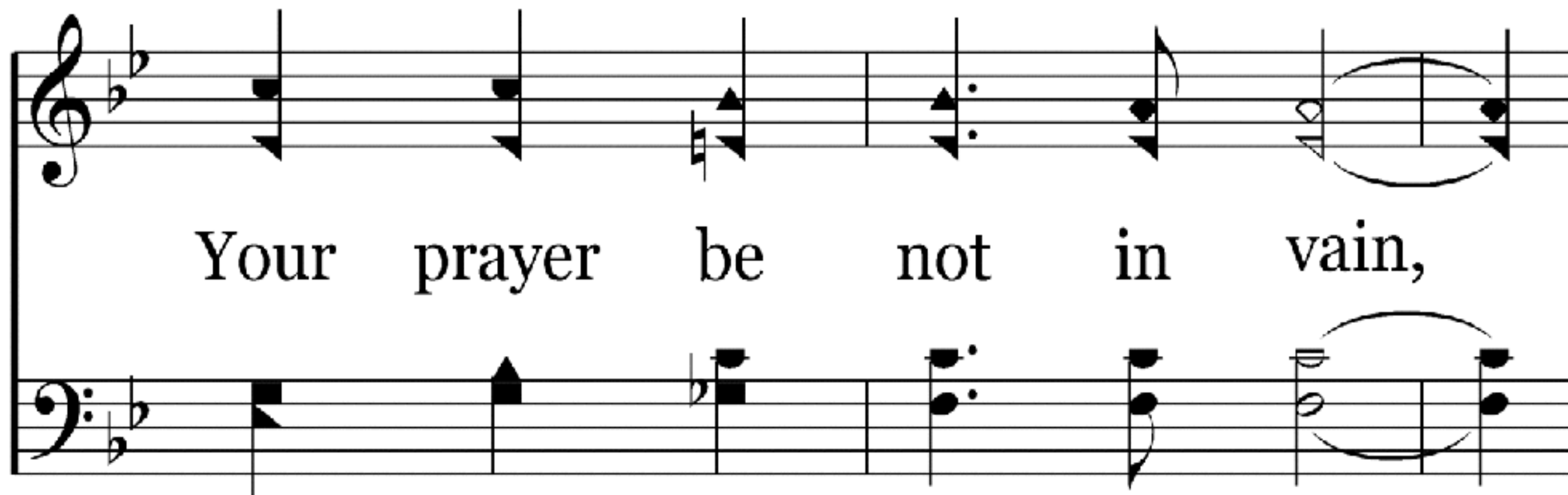


thru - out the day; His grace your



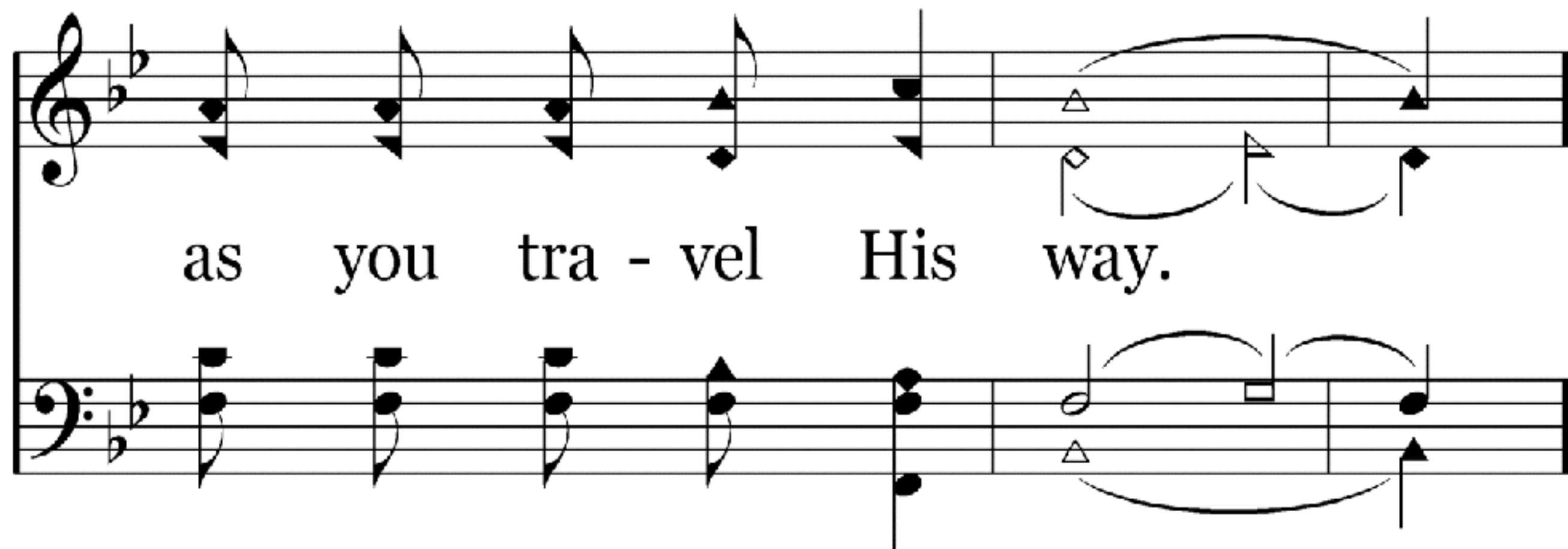
heart sus-tain, His pow'r re-lieve your pain,





First system of a musical score in G minor (one flat). The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes, also ending with a half note. The lyrics "Your prayer be not in vain," are centered between the staves.

Your prayer be not in vain,



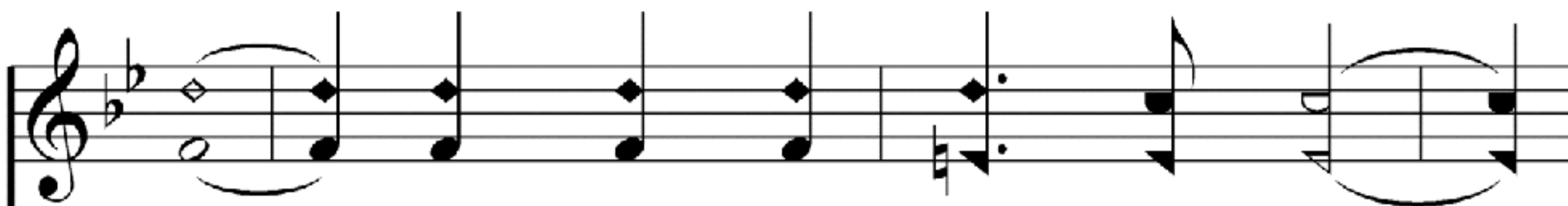
Second system of the musical score. The treble staff continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note. The bass staff continues the accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note. The lyrics "as you tra - vel His way." are centered between the staves.

as you tra - vel His way.

Chorus



In spite of all the lies, that some may



hurl, Christ is the on - ly hope





of all the world; God bless you, go with



God, thru all e-ter-ni-ty, My prayer will





al - ways be, May you go with God.



In spite of all the lies, that some may hurl,





Christ is the on - ly hope of all the



world; God bless you, go with God,





thru all e - ter - ni - ty, My prayer will



al-ways be, May you go with God.



May you go with God.

This musical score is written for a vocal melody and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'May you go with God.' The melody features a long note on 'God.' with a slur. The accompaniment features a long note on 'God.' with a slur. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

End of Song

The Question of Self Defense

*Are Christians Scripturally Authorized to
Defend Themselves Using Lethal force?*

Charts by Don McClain / Preached November 5, 2017

West 65th Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062 / Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Prepared using Keynote 2014 – More PPT & Audio Sermons:

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.com>

Romans 13:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there *is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.