

# Though In The Form Of God

Phil 2:6-11

Tony Barr

Descant

Melody

Harmony

Keyboard

2. Born \_\_\_ in the like - ness of  
6. Ev-'ry tongue ac-claim: Christ is

1. Though \_\_\_ in the form \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ God, Christ \_\_\_ did not  
2. Born \_\_\_ in the like - ness of us, and tak - ing on the  
3. He be - came o - be - di - ent for us, o - be - di - ent for  
4. There - fore \_\_\_ God \_\_\_ raised him up, there - fore \_\_\_  
5. At that name \_\_\_ ev-'ry knee must bend, ev-'ry knee should  
6. Ev-'ry tongue ac-claim: \_\_\_ Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is

4. There - fore \_\_\_ God raised him up, there - fore \_\_\_  
6. Ev-'ry tongue ac-claim: Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is

2. us, and tak - ing on the form \_\_\_ of a slave, he  
6. Lord! Je - sus Christ is Lord \_\_\_ ev - er - more! For

1. cling to this state, but emp - tied him - self,  
2. form of a slave, he hum - bled him - self,  
3. us to \_\_\_ death, to death on a cross,  
4. God raised him up, and gave him a name,  
5. bow and bend low; how great is that name,  
6. Lord ev - er - more! For Je - sus is Lord,

4. God \_\_\_ raised him up, and gave him a name, \_\_\_  
6. Lord \_\_\_ ev - er - more! For Je - sus is Lord, \_\_\_

© 1987, Tony Barr. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

\*Intro may begin at this point.

Edition 30115283

2. hum - bled him - self, be - com - ing o -  
6. Je - sus is Lord, the glo - ry of

1. emp - tied him - self, and took on the  
2. hum - bled him - self, be - com - ing o -  
3. death on a cross, not grasp - ing e -  
4. gave him a name, and gave him a  
5. great is that name! All crea - tures of  
6. Je - sus is Lord, the glo - ry of

4. gave him a name, and the gave him a name  
6. Je - sus is Lord, the glo - ry of God

2. be - di - ent to death.  
6. God the Fa - ther.

1. form of a ser - vant.  
2. be - di - ent to death.  
3. qual - i - ty with God.  
4. name a - bove all oth - er names.  
5. earth and heav - en praise him.  
6. God the Fa - ther.

4. a name a - bove all oth - er names.  
6. the Fa - ther.

*D.C. Lasttime Fine*

*D.C. Lasttime Fine*

*D.C. Lasttime Fine*

# Performance Notes

Much of the New Testament evolved within a liturgical context. The Gospels were catecheses for newcomers to the community. The pastoral letters were addressed to local communities assembled for worship. The dynamism of the young church was best defined by its liturgy. Therefore it comes as no surprise to discover that Paul drew copiously on the acclamatory songs, refrains and canticles which were becoming part of the Apostolic Church's worshipping life. For example, "Awake, you who sleep" from Ephesians 5:14, is obviously a quotation from an evening hymn, which would have been sung at the lucernarium or kindling of the lamps at sunset at the beginning of the night vigils.

*Though In The Form Of God* is a canticle taken from Philippians 2:6–11. The canticle owes much of its theology to the Suffering Servant Songs of Isaiah. The Palm Sunday liturgy links it to the third Servant Song of Is 50:4–7; yet there are also links to the fourth Servant Song of Is 52:13–53:12. In an attempt to understand the meaning of the resurrection, the Apostolic Church began to explore the events which led up to the resurrection, namely the death of Jesus and the passion which brought about that death.

As with all of the songs quoted by Paul, it consists of a string of acclamations rather than following the cohesive strophic structure of the later Ambrosian hymn. I have respected this in my musical setting of the text, using only the briefest of phrases which are often repeated. These repetitions are not fillers to pad out the melody, they are intentional reiterations of key phrases of a most elemental, uncomplicated text.

In scoring for voices, I used the analogy of a string orchestra. The melody line may be visualized as having been written for cellos and violas; phrasing and rubato should take their cues from the bowing techniques used to play these instruments. The coloring and mellow nature of these instruments also provide a clue to the quality of vocal timbers. The descant on verses two and six should emulate the dramatic yet sweet qualities of the violin; these phrases soar and dance, in concert with the melodies yet with a life and vitality of their own. The harmony on verses four and six should reflect the majesty and vibrancy of the double bass, and inject energy into the song to prevent the tension from lagging.

The accompaniment is for piano or organ, and both instruments may play together to provide a richer sound for the harmony verses of two, four and six. Two trumpet descants have also been provided, which may be used individually on verses two and four and together on the final verse six.

This song is particularly relevant in Holy Week, either as a song during the preparation or as a communion meditation. It reflects on the Scriptures for Palm Sunday and Good Friday. It is an appropriate accompaniment to the foot-washing of Holy Thursday. It is also suited to baptismal liturgies, and any occasion which celebrates discipleship and stewardship. Outside of Eucharist, it may be sung as a hymn for Evening Prayer; in the long tradition of the liturgical hours, the evening offices have always reflected on the suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord, while morning prayer has tended to be more missionary or apostolic.

—T.B.

# Though In The Form Of God

(Guitar/Vocal)

Phil 2:6-11

Tony Barr

Capo 3: (Bm) Dm (G) Bb (A) C (Bm) Dm (Bm/A) Dm/C

1. Though \_ in the form \_ of \_ God, Christ \_ did not  
 2. Born \_ in the like - ness of us, and tak - ing on the  
 3. He be - came o - be - di - ent for us, o - be - di - ent for  
 4. There - fore \_ God \_ raised him up, there - fore \_  
 5. At that name \_ ev - 'ry knee must bend, ev - 'ry knee should  
 6. Ev - 'ry tongue ac - claim: \_ Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is

(G) Bb (A) C (Bm) Dm (Em7) Gm7 (F#m7) Am7 (Bm7) Dm7 (G) Bb

1. cling to this state, but emp - tied him - self, emp - tied him - self, and  
 2. form of a slave, he hum - bled him - self, hum - bled him - self, be -  
 3. us to \_ death, to death on a cross, death on a cross, not  
 4. God raised him up, and gave him a name, gave him a name, and  
 5. bow and bend low; how great is that name, great is that name! All  
 6. Lord ev - er - more! For Je - sus is Lord, Je - sus is Lord, the

(Bm7) Dm7 (F#m7) Am7 (Bm) Dm (D) F (A) C D.C. Last time (Bm) Dm Fine

1. took on \_ the form \_ of a ser - vant.  
 2. com - ing \_ o - be - di - ent to death. \_  
 3. grasp - ing \_ e - qual - i - ty with God. \_  
 4. gave him \_ a name a - bove all oth - er names.  
 5. crea - tures \_ of earth and heav - en praise \_ him.  
 6. glo - ry \_ of God \_ the \_ Fa - ther.

© 1987, Tony Barr. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

B♭ TRUMPET I

Tony Barr

© 1987, Tony Barr. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

## Assembly Edition

**THOUGH IN THE FORM OF GOD**

Phil 2:6-11 Tony Barr



1. Though \_\_\_ in the form \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ God, Christ \_\_\_ did not  
 2. Born \_\_\_ in the like - ness of us, and tak - ing on the  
 3. He be - came o - be - di - ent for us, o - be - di - ent for  
 4. There - fore \_\_\_ God \_\_\_ raised him up, there - fore \_\_\_  
 5. At that name \_\_\_ ev - 'ry knee must bend, ev - 'ry knee should  
 6. Ev - 'ry tongue ac - claim: \_\_\_ Christ is Lord! Je - sus Christ is



1. cling to this state, but emp - tied him - self, emp - tied him - self,  
 2. form of a slave, he hum - bled him - self, hum - bled him - self,  
 3. us to \_\_\_ death, to death on a cross, death on a cross,  
 4. God raised him up, and gave him a name, gave him a name,  
 5. bow and bend low; how great is that name, great is that name!  
 6. Lord ev - er - more! For Je - sus is Lord, Je - sus is Lord,





1. and took on \_\_\_ the form \_\_\_ of a ser - vant.  
 2. be - com - ing \_\_\_ o - be - di - ent to death. \_\_\_  
 3. not grasp - ing \_\_\_ e - qual - i - ty with God. \_\_\_  
 4. and gave him \_\_\_ a name a - bove all oth - er names.  
 5. All crea - tures \_\_\_ of earth and heav - en praise \_\_\_ him.  
 6. the glo - ry \_\_\_ of God \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ Fa - ther.

© 1987, Tony Barr. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

For reprint permissions, please visit [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) or contact us at 1-800-663-1501.

### B $\flat$ TRUMPET II

Tony Barr

**Last time**  
*D.C. Fine*

© 1987, Tony Barr. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.