

The Returning

Words by
Watson Kirkconnell
Used with permission.

Music by
Jane Best

♩ = 60 Relaxed, ballad style

A all sopranos and altos
mp

Here, by the Christ-mas hearth, the heart re-mem-bers...

mp

pedal freely

The loved ones, now no long-er in flesh, Who shared with us the joys...

... of remem-bers, Whose glan-ces in the fan-cy, shine a-fresh...

poco rit.

B solo A tempo

10 *mf*

Their sha - dowy forms sur-round us in our mus-ing; ___ Their un - seen hands up-on our shoul - ders rest;

mp sopranos and altos *sostenuto*
Oo...

mp tenors and bass
Oo...

p



14

The sense of their af-fec - es suf-fus-ing. The un-for-got-ten an-guish of the breast. ___

(Ooo...)

(Ooo...)

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C

18 *f* We can-not see them_ but_ their eyes are on us; *p* We can-not touch them but they

f We can-not see them_ but_ their eyes are on us; *p* We can-not touch them but they

21 *mf* touch us still; Thru joy an' our deep glan - ces scan us; *mf*

touch us still; and sor-row their deep glan - ces scan us; *mf*

24 **D** solo *mf* Are these the spir - its who have

our lives in love thru good and ill.

they watch our lives in love thru good and ill.

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27

shared our liv-ing? — then still more close must be the Heart of Love

30

That in the cli - max — of Cre-a-tion's — Came as a Babe, in pi - ty

poco rit.

E A tempo

33

from a —

The birth of God Him-self — in hu - man fash - ion —

The birth of God Him-self — in hu - man fash - ion —

poco rit. **A tempo**

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6 36

Hal-lows this sea - son be-yond word or thought, For in His Birth we al - so

Hal-lows this sea - son be-yond word or thought, For in His Birth we al - so

39

see His Pas - sion And an A - tone - r his loved ones wrought. <

see His Pas - sion And ar ment for his loved ones wrought.

42

F sopranos

Oo

altos

so en - fold - ing all the glad en - dea - vour

And so en - fold - ing all the glad en - dea - vour

44

Oo

In which, with the de-par - ted, we take part, We feel God's liv - ing pre -

In which, with the de-par - ted, we take part, We feel God's liv - ing pre -

47

- sence bless for-ev - er The Pe - rist- mas to the hu - man heart.

- sence bless for-ev - er eace of Christ- mas to the hu - man heart.

50

rit. mp

Peace!

mp

Peace!

p

Ped. Ped. Ped.

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