

Show me the way  
for choir (with soloists) and chamber ensemble  
(oboe, trumpet, horn, tuba, percussion [cajón and djembe], piano four-hands, harpsichord, celeste,  
violin, cello, bass)

5:30 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2020)

Commissioned by Luther College for Christmas at Luther, 2020  
Premiered by Luther College Faculty/Staff ensemble, December 2020

Program Note:

This work, written during the year of the twin pandemics of coronavirus and systemic racism, combines the Appalachian carol “I wonder as I wander” with the African-American Spiritual, “Show me the way.”

Text:

Oh, my good Lord,  
Show me the way.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus the savior did come for to die  
For poor ordinary people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky,

Oh, my good Lord,  
Show me the way.

When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow’s stall,  
Came wise men and shepherds and farmers  
and all,  
And high from the heavens a star’s light did  
fall;  
The promise of ages it then did recall.

Enter the chariot,  
Show me the way.  
Enter the chariot,  
Travel along.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,  
Or all of God’s angels in heaven for to sing,  
He surely could have had it, cause he was the  
king.

Oh, my good Lord,  
Show me the way.

Oh, come all ye faithful, triumphantly sing,  
Come, see in the manger our Savior and King!  
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord:  
Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!