

# A BIBLICAL BOOK OF BEASTS

Poems by Daniel Pinkham

## *DOVE*

The day is nearly done.  
Above the waters dark  
by glow of setting sun  
I see the distant ark.

Dry land I went to seek.  
All day I've spent on wing.  
How proudly in my beak  
an olive branch I bring!

The ending of the flood  
it will to Noah show.  
Now from the ship of wood.  
the creatures safe may go.

## *WHALE*

Oh! what a pain  
down in my belly.  
Oh! I feel it again—  
indigestible Jonah!

He thought he could flee  
from God's decree  
by boarding a ship  
and taking a trip.  
Cast overboard in the midst of the storm,  
in the deep if the sea  
he was swallowed by me.

I really do relish  
a banquet of fish,  
but this man from Tarshish  
is not the dish  
for which I could wish.

## *FROG*

I'm just a small frog,  
an ex-polliwog,  
up from the Nile  
to places royal,  
up from the marsh  
to Pharaoh the harsh.

"Listen, O King,  
a warning I bring.  
Let Israel go  
else Moses will show  
you worse plagues from the Lord.  
So attend to his word."

## *LION*

Grr. I'm a lion with lock-jaw.  
What? You never saw one before?  
Then let me tell you about it.

Daniel was cast into the den  
but then  
the angel came at God's command  
and stopped our mouths  
and would not let us dine  
on Old Testament Prophet.  
No doubt about it,—  
I'm mad and I'm hungry. Grr.

## ***ROOSTER***

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

My clarion call  
proclaims the morning.  
Awake, awake!  
The day is dawning.

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

My reveille  
Saint Peter heard,  
then wept, remembering  
his master's word.

## ***COLT***

"Our master needs it". That is why  
disciples two do me untie.  
My back they saddle with a cloak.  
With branches green they strew the road.

He comes not riding through the air,  
a golden chariot for his car,  
but mounted on an ass's colt,  
as it in Scripture was foretold.

"Hosanna", as they see his face,  
"Hosanna", to great David's race,  
"Hosanna", now the people sing  
as on my back I bear a king.

The text should be printed in the program with the following notice:  
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Parts for string quartet or string accompaniment are available from the publisher.

Commissioned in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the All Souls Children's Choir,  
All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

# A BIBLICAL BOOK OF BEASTS

for two-part Chorus of Treble Voices and String Quartet or Piano

## 1. DOVE

Daniel Pinkham

$\text{♩} = 104$

4 *unison f*

1. The day is near - ly done. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Dry land I went to seek. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. The end - ing of the flood \_\_\_\_\_

8 *sempre f*

A bove the wa - ters dark \_\_\_\_\_ by  
 All day I've spent on wing. \_\_\_\_\_ How  
 it will to No - ah show. \_\_\_\_\_ Now

12

glow of set - ting sun \_\_\_\_\_ I see the dis - tant  
 proud-ly in my beak \_\_\_\_\_ an ol - ive branch I  
 from the ship of wood \_\_\_\_\_ the crea - tures safe may

16

1. ark. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. bring! \_\_\_\_\_

1.2.

*pp*

19

3. go. \_\_\_\_\_

3.

*(non dim.)*

*(non dim.)*

## 2. WHALE

$\text{♩} = 120$   
Soprano

*fp* Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ what a

Alto *fp* \_\_\_\_\_ *ff* Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ what a pain, (n) \_\_\_\_\_ *fp* Oh, \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

3

*ff* pain (n) down in my bel - ly.

\_\_\_\_\_ what a pain down in my bel - ly. *fp* Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ I feel it a -

6

*fp* Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ I feel it a - gain. \_\_\_\_\_ (n) \_\_\_\_\_ *ff*

*ff* gain. \_\_\_\_\_ (n) *fp* Oh! \_\_\_\_\_ I feel it a - gain, I feel it a - *ff*

8 fine

I feel it a-gain. — (n) in-di-gest-i-ble Jo-nah!

gain, I feel it a-gain. — (n) in-di-gest-i-ble Jo-nah!

*fine*

11 *tutti f*

He thought he could flee from God's de-cree by board-ing a ship and

*p cresc.*

13

tak-ing a trip. Cast o-ver board in the midst of the storm in the

*mp*

15 (Sop) *ff*

deep of the sea he was swal-lowed by me.

(Alto) *ff*

deep of the sea he was swal-lowed by me. Oh! ————— what a

*fp*

*ff* *mf*

*mf*

17

*fp* *ff*

Oh! ————— what a pain — (n) down

*ff* *fp* *ff*

pain, — (n) Oh, ————— what a pain down

19

in my bel - ly. Oh! — I feel it a -

in my bel - ly. Oh! — I feel it a - gain... (n) Oh! —

*fp* *ff* *fp*

22

*ff*

gain. — (n) I feel it a - gain. —

*ff*

— I feel it a - gain, I feel it a - gain, I feel it a - gain. —

24

— (n) in - di - gest - i - ble Jo - nah!

— (n) in - di - gest - i - ble Jo - nah!

27

*tutti mp*

I real - ly do rel ish a ban - quet of

31

fish, but this man from Tar - shish

35

*D.C. al fine*

is not the dish for which I could wish.



## 3. FROG

$\text{♩} = 96$

*f*

I'm just a small frog, an ex-pol-li-wog,

3

up from the Nile to pal-ac-es royal, up from the marsh to Pha-raoh the harsh.

*simile*

5

7 *f cresc.*

“Lis - ten, O King, a warn - ing I bring. Let Is - ra - el go else Mo - ses will show you worse

9 *ff*

plagues from the Lord.

11 *marcato*

So at - tend to his word.”

## 4. LION

$\text{♩} = 112$  *mp* *ff* 3 3 3

Grrr. (unpitched growl) I'm a li - on with lock - jaw. —

3

What? You nev - er saw one be - fore? Then let me

5 *senza rallentare*

tell you a - bout it.

*p*

7

*mp*

Dan - iel was cast \_\_\_\_\_ in - to the

9

den, Dan - iel was cast \_\_\_\_\_

11

\_\_\_\_\_ in - to the den but

13

*p**dolce*

then the an - gel came at

*P legato*

15 *cresc.*

God's com - mand and stopped our mouths and

*cresc.*

17 *ff*

would not let us dine on Old Test-a-ment Proph-et.

*ff*

*mp*

19

No doubt a - bout it, I'm mad and I'm

21 *ff*

hun - gry. Grrr. (unpitched growl)

*cresc.*

*ff*

## 5. ROOSTER

$\text{♩} = 144$

*f* *mf* *f*

4

Cock - a - doo - dle - doo! My

*mf* *f*

7

clar - ion call pro - claims the morn - - ing.

*f* *f* *p*

10 *f* ————— *ff*

—(ng) A - wake, a - wake! The day ——— is

13

dawn - ing. ——— (ng)

17 *f* ————— *p*

Cock - a - doo - dle doo! My

20 *dolce*

re - veil - le Saint Pe - ter heard, then wept,

*p legato* *pp*

24

re - mem - ber - ing his

28 *f* *p*

mas - - - ter's word.

*mp* *mp* *p*



## 6. COLT

♩ = 88 ♩ = 132

1. "Our  
2. He  
3. "Ho -

*f*

4

Mas - ter needs it". That is why dis - ci - ples two do me un -  
comes not rid - ing through the air, a gold - en char - iot for his  
san - na", as they see his face, "Ho - san - na to great Da - vid's

6

tie -  
car,  
race,

My back they sad - dle with a  
but mount - ed on an ass' s  
Ho - san - na," now the peo - ple

9 **1.2.**

cloak. With branch-es green they strew the road. \_\_\_\_\_  
 colt, as it in Scrip-ture was fore - told. \_\_\_\_\_

**1.2.**

11

13 **3.** *ff*

sing as on my back I bear a king. \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** *ff*

World premiere 13 April 1986, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
 The composer conducting.