piano/vocal score

The Children's Miracle

Words & music by Peter Amidon
This is a true story of the Civil Rights Movement.
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tempo starts: half note 84, it can gradually speed up to a steady half note 104.
With a slight swing on the eighth notes.

The year was nine-teen six-ty three, Al-a - ba-ma was the state.

9

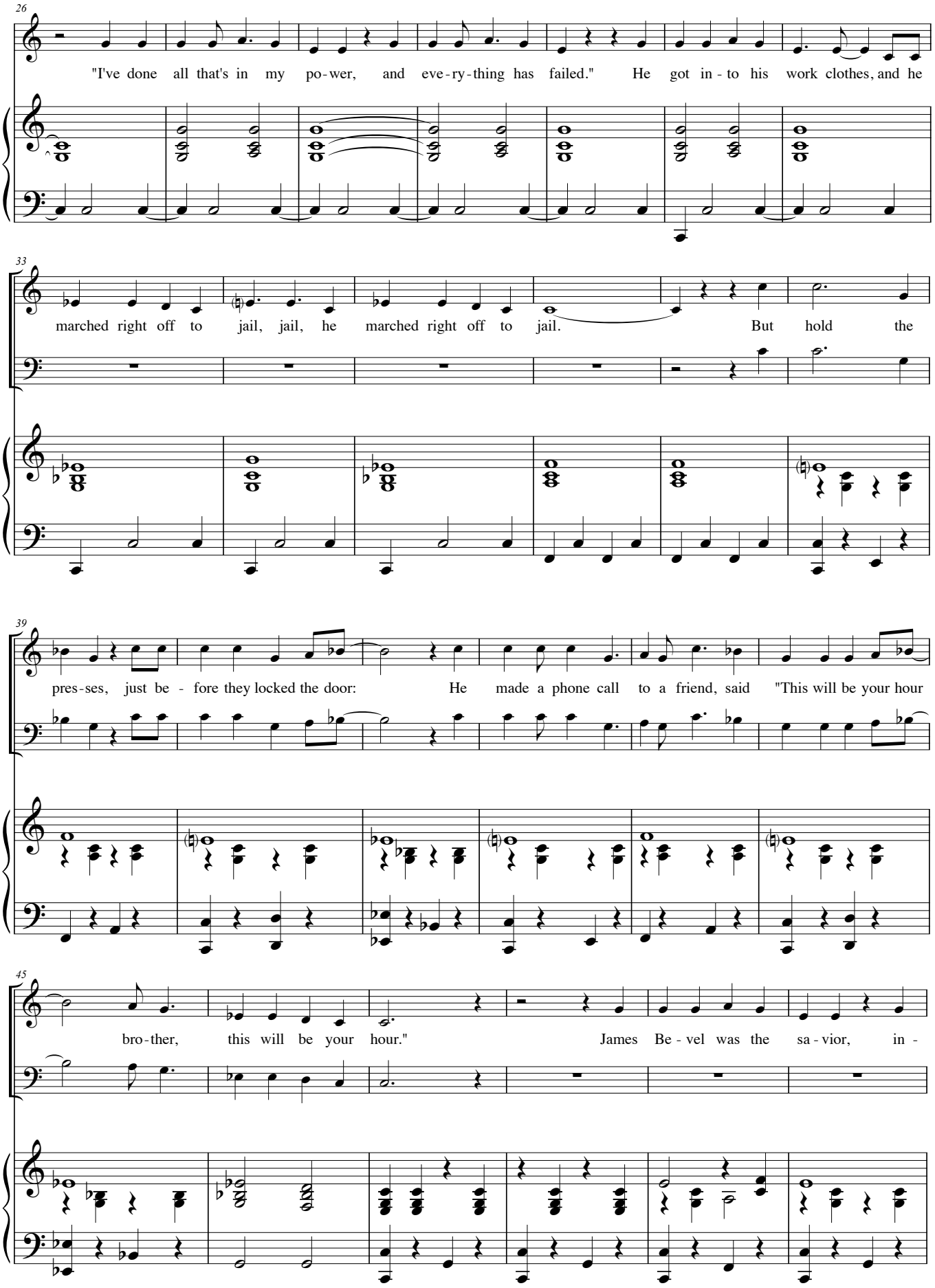
Bir - ming-ham was the ci-ty: di - vi - ded by hate; di - vi - ded by hate.

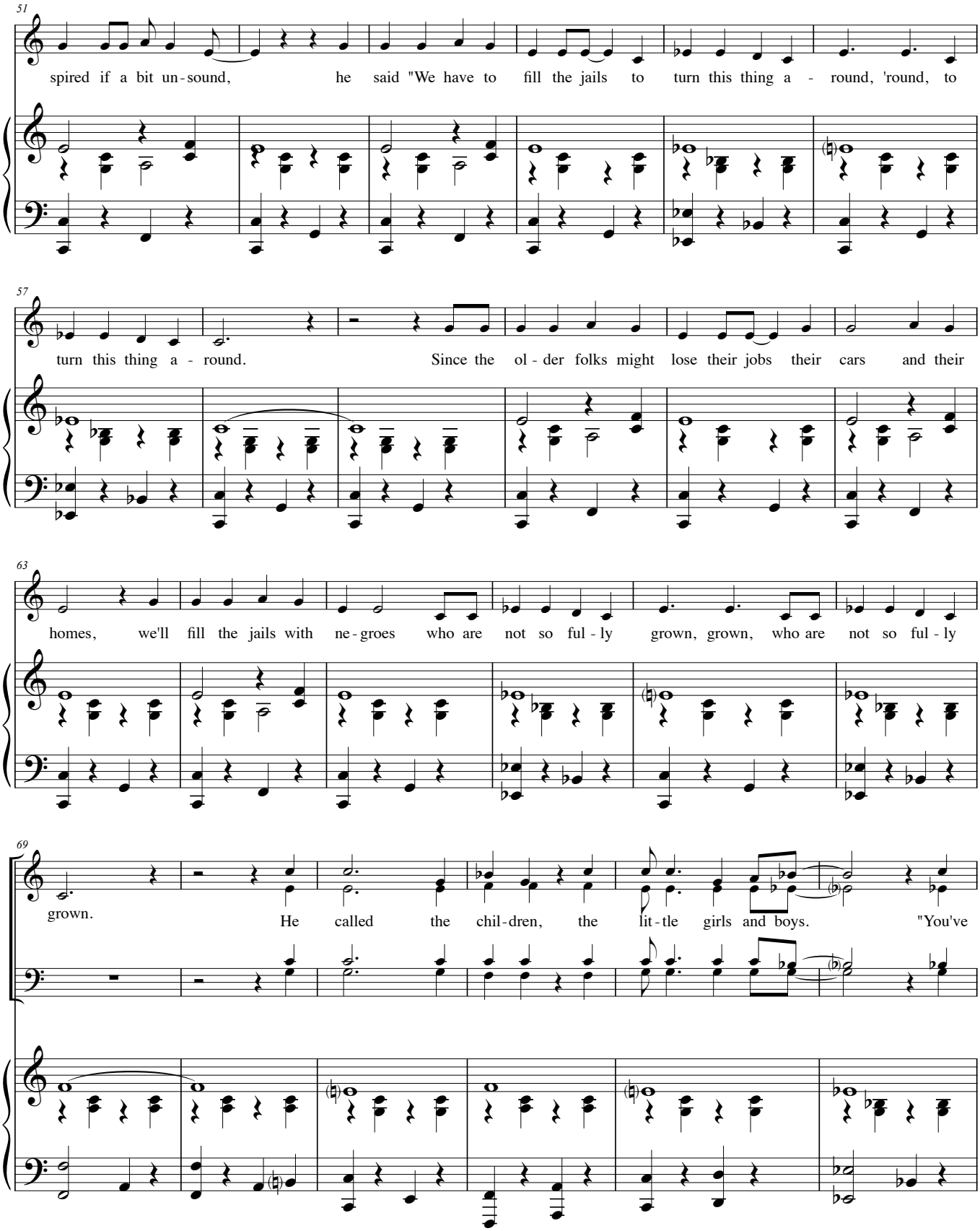
15

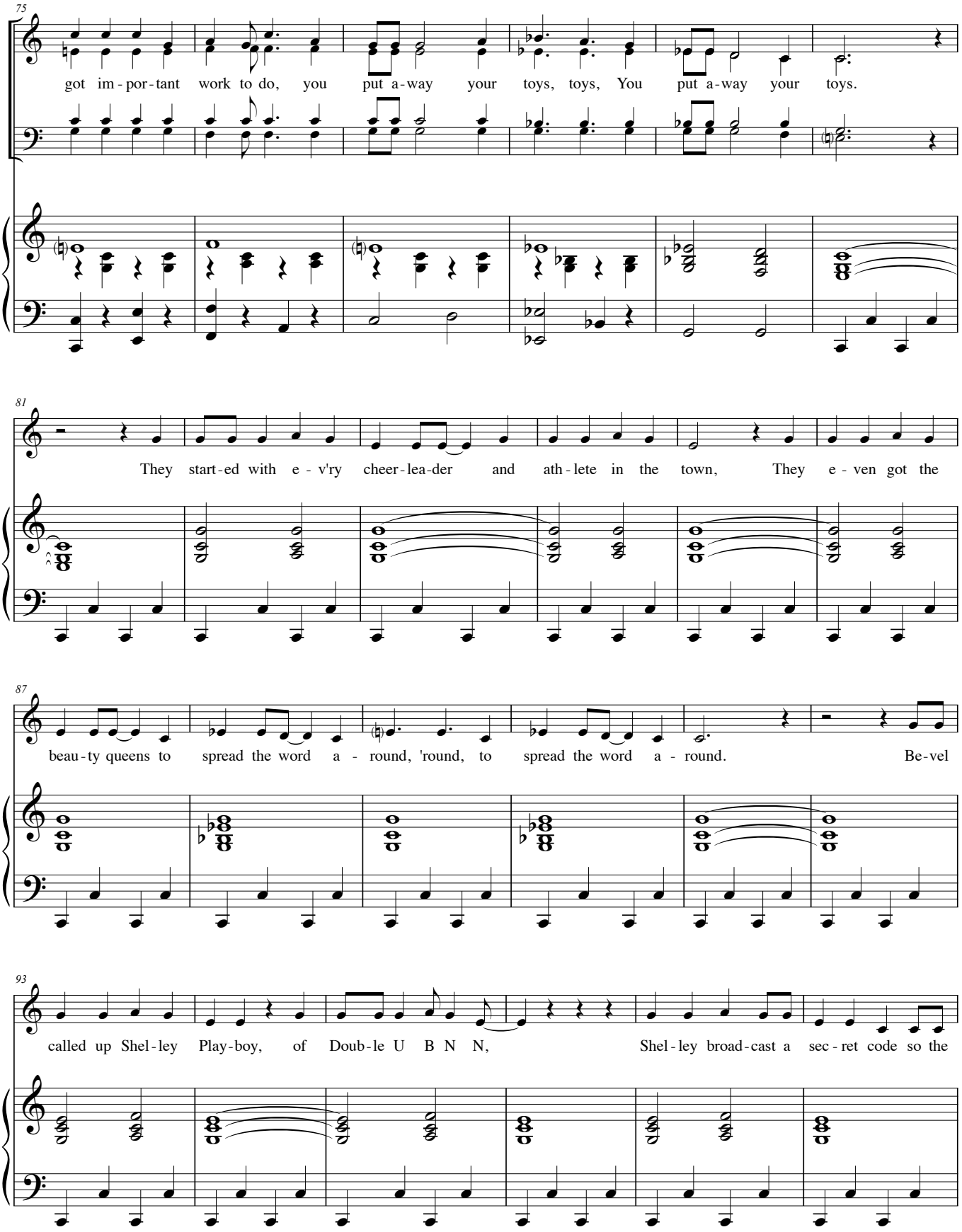
Now Doc - tor King was work-ing to in - te-grate that town, but now his free-dom

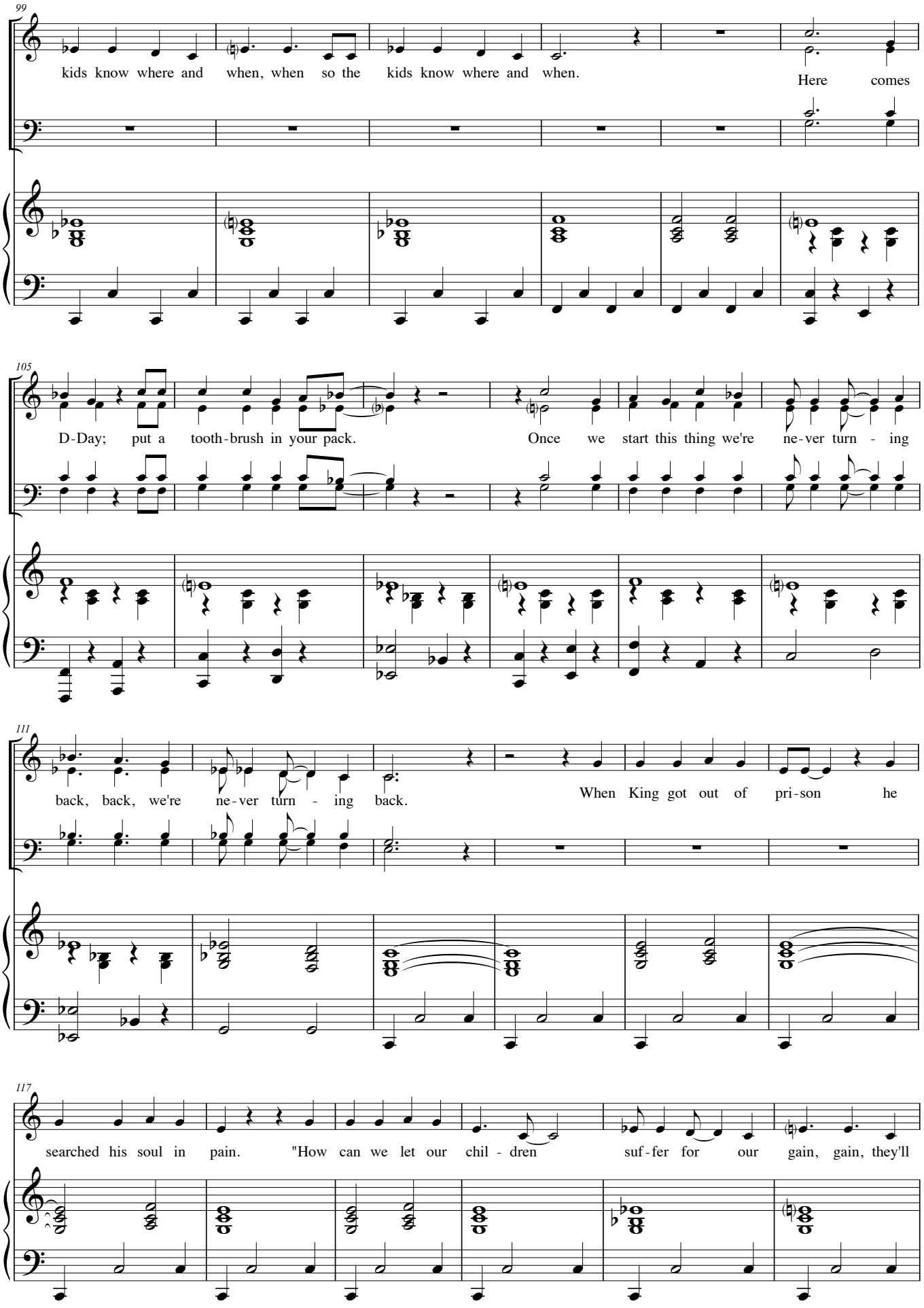
21

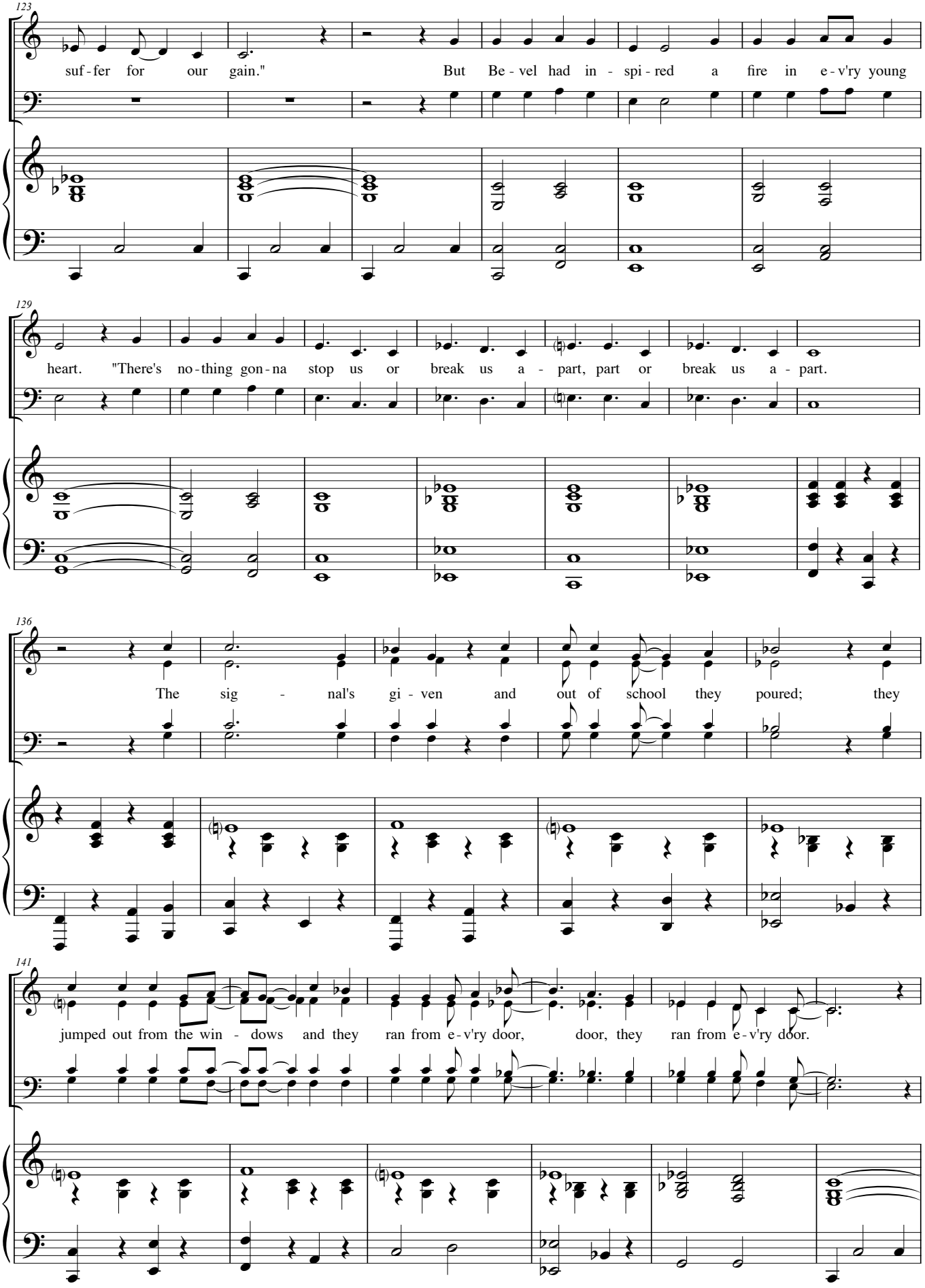
move - ment was grind - ing to the ground, ground, was grind - ing to the ground.

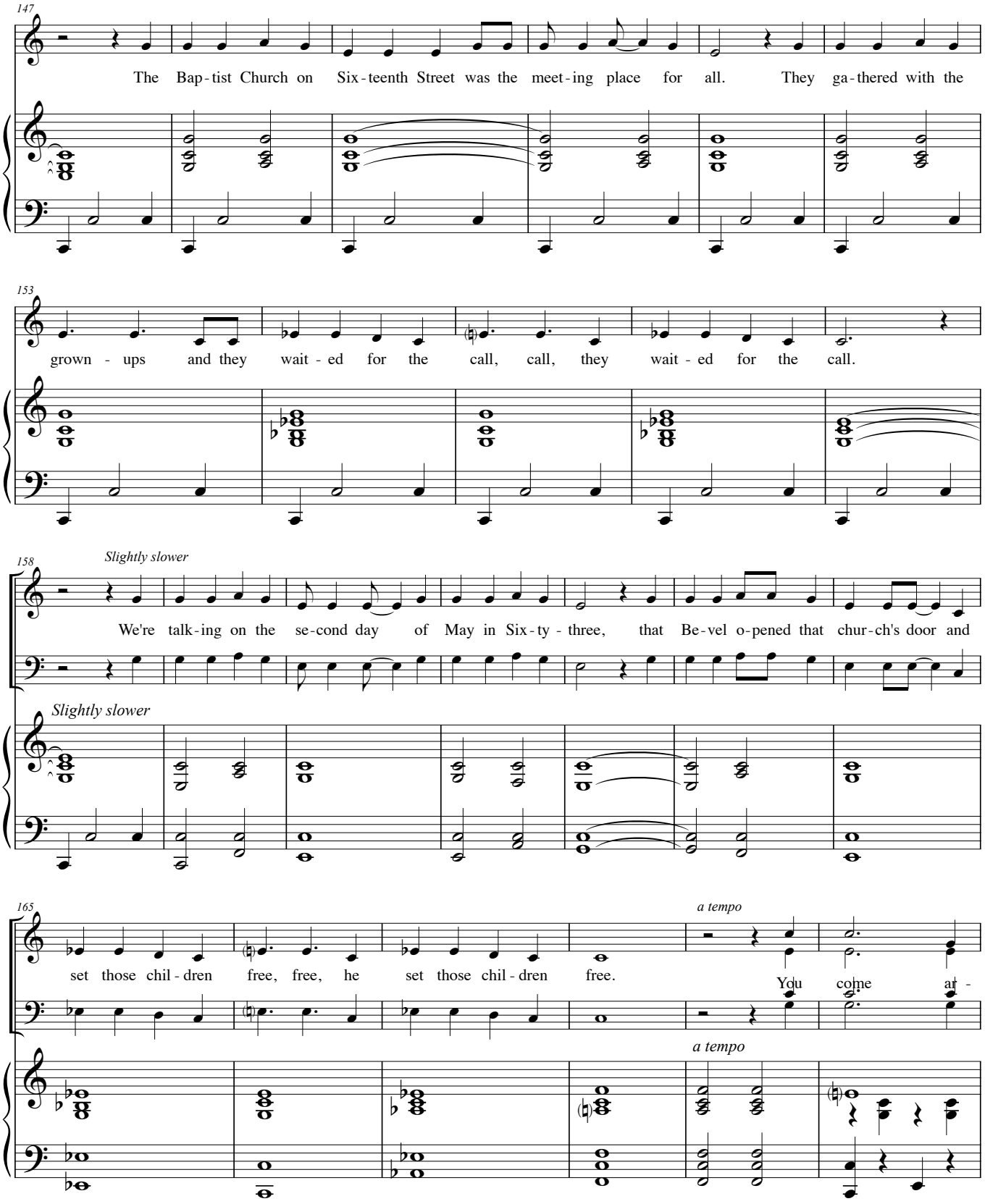

26
"I've done all that's in my po-wer, and eve-ry-thing has failed." He got in-to his work clothes, and he
33
marched right off to jail, jail, he marched right off to jail. But hold the
39
pres-ses, just be-fore they locked the door: He made a phone call to a friend, said "This will be your hour
45
bro-ther, this will be your hour." James Be-vel was the sa-vior, in-

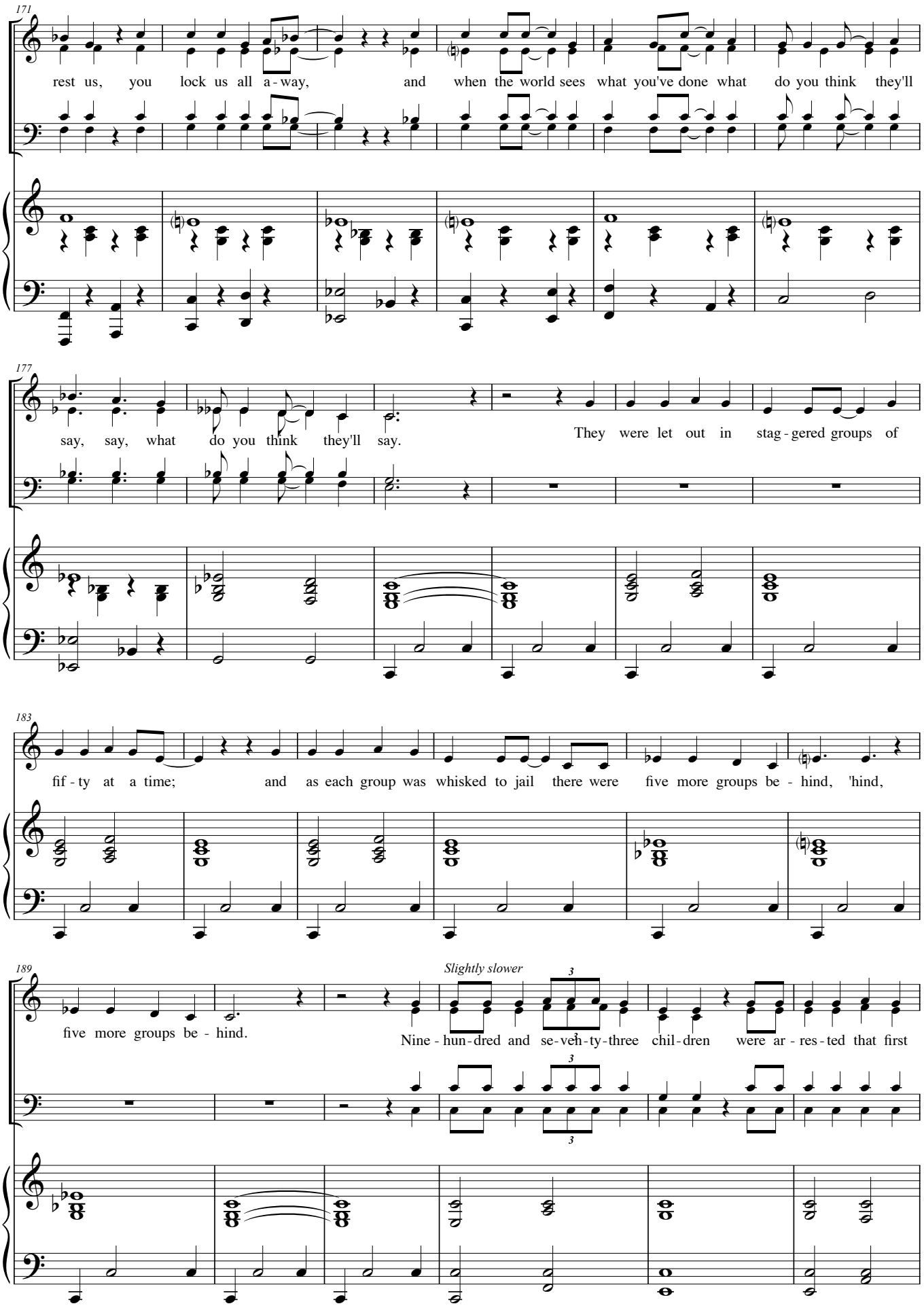

51
spired if a bit un - sound, he said "We have to fill the jails to turn this thing a - round, 'round, to
57
turn this thing a - round. Since the ol - der folks might lose their jobs their cars and their
63
homes, we'll fill the jails with ne - groes who are not so ful - ly grown, grown, who are not so ful - ly
69
grown. He called the chil - dren, the lit - tle girls and boys. "You've

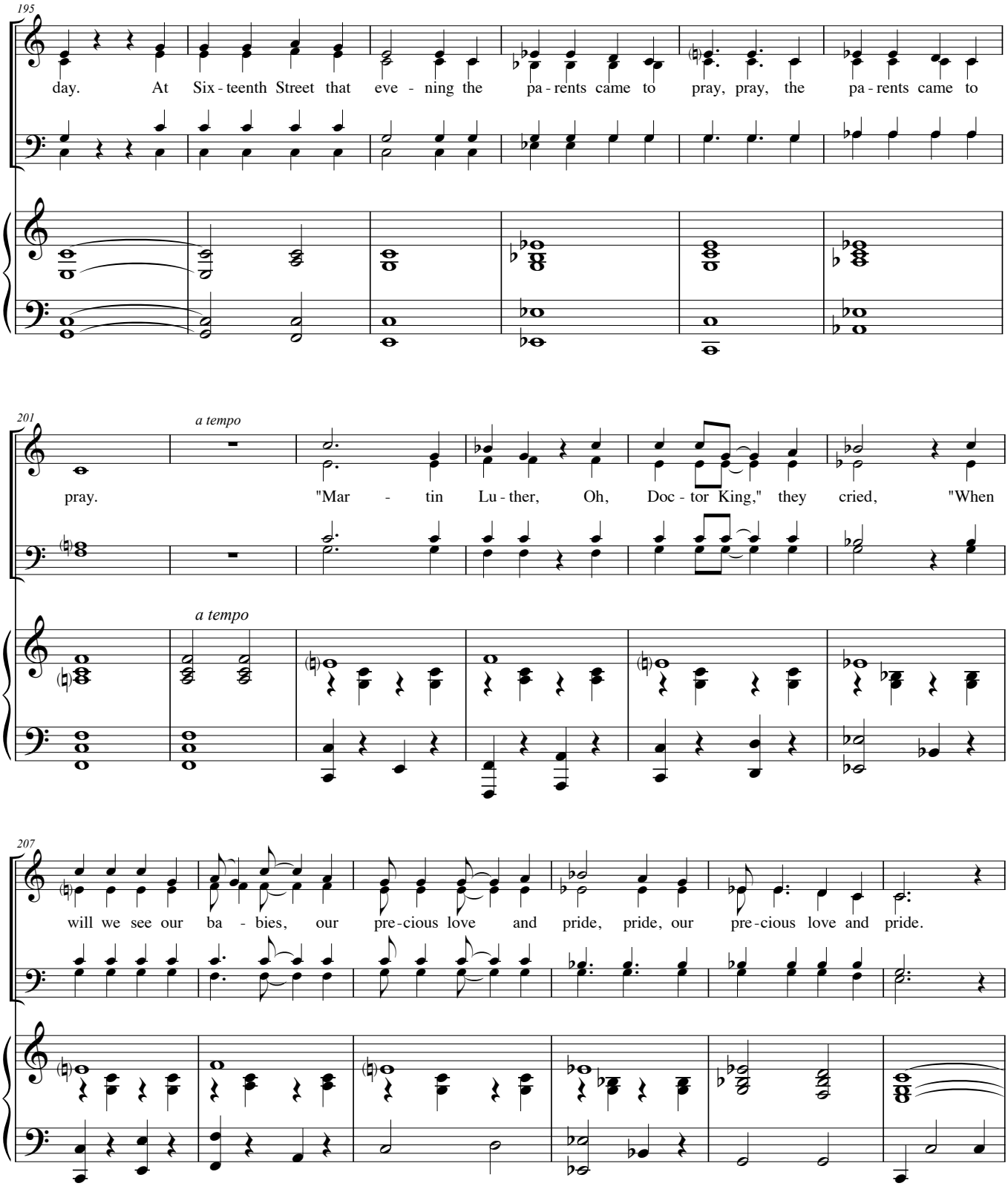

75
got im - por - tant work to do, you put a - way your toys, toys, You put a - way your toys.
81
They start - ed with e - v'ry cheer - lea - der and ath - lete in the town, They e - ven got the
87
beau - ty queens to spread the word a - round, 'round, to spread the word a - round. Be - vel
93
called up Shel - ley Play - boy, of Doub - le U B N N, Shel - ley broad - cast a sec - ret code so the


99
kids know where and when, when so the kids know where and when.
Here comes
105
D-Day; put a tooth-brush in your pack.
Once we start this thing we're ne-ver turn - ing
111
back, back, we're ne-ver turn - ing back.
When King got out of pri-son he
117
searched his soul in pain. "How can we let our chil - dren suf-fer for our gain, gain, they'll


123
suf - fer for our gain." But Be - vel had in - spi - red a fire in e - v'ry young
129
heart. "There's no - thing gon - na stop us or break us a - part, part or break us a - part.
136
The sig - nal's gi - ven and out of school they poured; they
141
jumped out from the win - dows and they ran from e - v'ry door, door, they ran from e - v'ry door.


147
The Bap-tist Church on Six-teenth Street was the meet-ing place for all. They ga-thered with the
153
grown - ups and they wait - ed for the call, call, they wait - ed for the call.
158
Slightly slower
We're talk-ing on the se-cond day of May in Six-ty - three, that Be-vel o-pened that chur-ch's door and
Slightly slower
165
a tempo
set those chil - dren free, free, he set those chil - dren free.
You come ar -
a tempo


171
rest us, you lock us all a - way, and when the world sees what you've done what do you think they'll
177
say, say, what do you think they'll say. They were let out in stag - gered groups of
183
fif - ty at a time; and as each group was whisked to jail there were five more groups be - hind, 'hind,
189
five more groups be - hind.
Slightly slower
Nine - hun - dred and se - ven - ty - three chil - dren were ar - res - ted that first


195
day. At Six - teenth Street that eve - ning the pa - rents came to pray, pray, the pa - rents came to
201
a tempo
pray. "Mar - tin Lu - ther, Oh, Doc - tor King," they cried, "When
a tempo
207
will we see our ba - bies, our pre - cious love and pride, pride, our pre - cious love and pride.

213

Don't wor-ry a-bout your chil-dren, they're gon-na be just fine. They're do-ing a job for A-

219

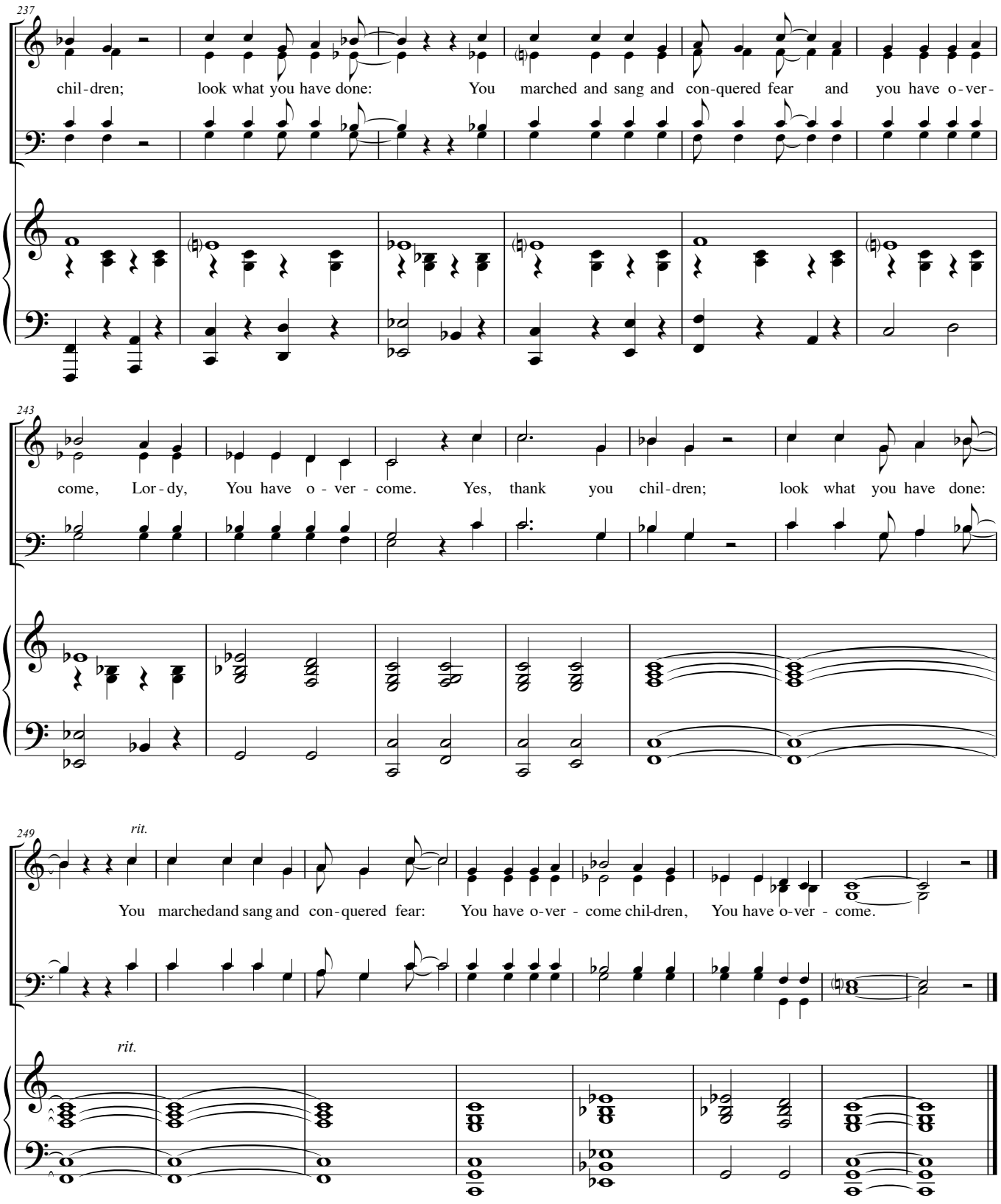
me - ri-ca, a job for all man - kind, 'kind, a job for all man - kind.

224

This strug-gle set in mo-tion a shift-ing of the tides towards gi-ving e-qual rights to e - very

231

wo-man, man and child, child, wo-man, man and child. Thank you


237
chil-dren; look what you have done: You marched and sang and con-quered fear and you have o-ver-
243
come, Lor-dy, You have o - ver - come. Yes, thank you chil-dren; look what you have done:
249
rit.
You marchedand sang and con-quered fear: You have o-ver - come chil-dren, You have o-ver - come.
rit.