

For Laura Mahler, pure light and beauty

MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU

Refrain: Trad. Irish blessing
Verses: based on Ecclesiastes 3:2–8; adapt. L.T.

Music: Lori True

Prayerfully ♩ = 80–85

§ Refrain

Descant

S, A
mp-mf § C G/B F/A
May the wind be

T, B unis.
mp-mf
May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your

§
mp-mf

Background and Liturgical Use: This is a communal setting of the popular Irish Blessing, intertwined with verses inspired from Ecclesiastes. This piece has several possibilities for use in liturgical and non-liturgical gatherings. The refrain could be used alone without verses as a final blessing at a variety of liturgies; and the refrain combined with verses could be used at weddings, funerals, graduations, celebrations of ministry, or any celebration where a blessing or “sending forth” is called for.

Performance: This piece deserves a careful and intentional tenderness without becoming overly sentimental. Best done with the simplest of instrumentation, the piece needs to achieve a good sense of movement without feeling rushed. When a choir is singing the refrain, it is important that a good blend is achieved so that the melody is not buried in the SAB texture. The descant would be best done by a single voice or a small group of sopranos singing lightly with little vibrato.

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at your back. Shine warm - ly
 GSUS4 G Am⁹ Am/G F
 your face.

back. May the sun shine warm up-on your face, up-on your
 up-on your

9

— on your face, soft - ly.
 GSUS4 G Am Am/G Fmaj⁷ C G/B

face. May the rain fall soft-ly on your fields, And un - til we meet a -
 face. May the rain fall on your fields, And un - til we meet a

13

Till we meet a - gain, gen - tle, -

Am Em/G FADD11 C/E

gain, _____ may you keep safe_ in the gen - tle, -

gain, _____ keep safe_ in the gen - tle_

16

	<i>To Verses</i>	<i>Final ending</i>
lov - ing	God.	God.
Dm7 GSUS4 G	<i>To Verses</i>	<i>Final ending</i>
	C	C
lov - ing arms _____ of God. _____ 1.-6. For ev-'ry-	God.	God.
lov - ing arms of God.	God.	God.
	<i>To Verses</i>	<i>Final ending</i>