

John Newton, 1779
(Hymn 81, Book 1)

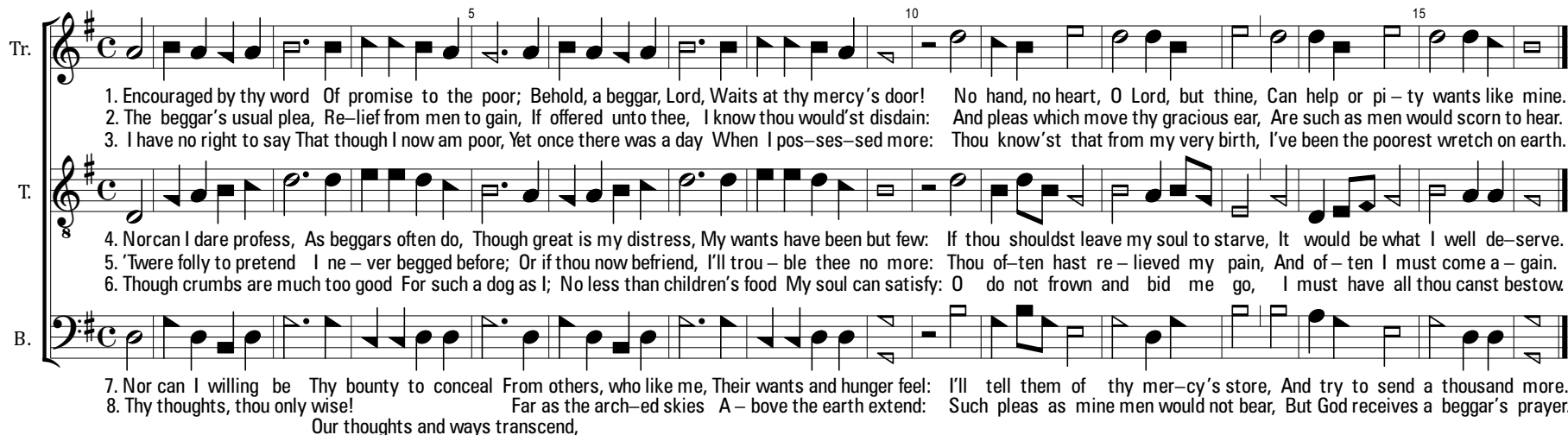
66. 66. 88.

Beggar's Prayer

Transcribed from Ingalls' *Christian Harmony*, 1805.

G Major

Jeremiah Ingalls, 1805



Tr.

1. Encouraged by thy word Of promise to the poor; Behold, a beggar, Lord, Waits at thy mercy's door! No hand, no heart, O Lord, but thine, Can help or pi-ty wants like mine.
2. The beggar's usual plea, Re-lief from men to gain, If offered unto thee, I know thou would'st disdain: And pleas which move thy gracious ear, Are such as men would scorn to hear.
3. I have no right to say That though I now am poor, Yet once there was a day When I pos-ses-sed more: Thou know'st that from my very birth, I've been the poorest wretch on earth.

T.

4. Nor can I dare profess, As beggars often do, Though great is my distress, My wants have been but few: If thou shouldst leave my soul to starve, It would be what I well de-serve.
5. 'Twere folly to pretend I ne-ver begged before; Or if thou now befriend, I'll trou-ble thee no more: Thou of-ten hast re-lieved my pain, And of-ten I must come a-gain.
6. Though crumbs are much too good For such a dog as I; No less than children's food My soul can satisfy: O do not frown and bid me go, I must have all thou canst bestow.

B.

7. Nor can I willing be Thy bounty to conceal From others, who like me, Their wants and hunger feel: I'll tell them of thy mer-cy's store, And try to send a thousand more.
8. Thy thoughts, thou only wise! Far as the arch-ed skies A-bove the earth extend: Such pleas as mine men would not bear, But God receives a beggar's prayer.
Our thoughts and ways transcend,