

# Only a Couple Fishes

SA children's choir and piano



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Elizabeth Alexander

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## Only a Couple Fishes

Long ago, five thousand people headed out into the wilderness,  
Listening to a wise man,  
And following where he led.  
When their bellies started rumbling,  
Some people started grumbling,  
'Til the wise man opened up his arms and said:

As we share what we have with each other,  
Let us sing out joyfully.  
May abundance lead to gratitude,  
Then to generosity.

To and fro they passed a basket, but discovered when they looked within:  
Only a couple fishes, and only five loaves of bread.  
The amount was truly humbling;  
Morale was quickly crumbling,  
But they prayed together as the wise man said:

As we share what we have with each other,  
Let us sing out joyfully.  
May abundance lead to gratitude,  
Then to generosity.

Overflowing baskets started coming forth before their very eyes:  
Suddenly there was plenty, and everyone there was fed.  
There was so much that was edible;  
The feasting was incredible,  
And so much left over that the people said:

As we share what we have with each other,  
Let us sing out joyfully.  
May abundance lead to gratitude,  
Then to generosity.

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# Only a Couple Fishes

Elizabeth Alexander

(♩ = 80)

All

1. Long a - go\_\_ five thou - sand peo - ple head - ed out\_\_ in - to the wil - der - ness.  
2. To and fro\_\_ they passed a bas - ket, but dis - cov - ered when they looked with - in:

All

Lis - ten - ing to\_\_ a wise\_\_ man and fol - low - ing where he led. When their  
On - ly a cou - ple fish - es, and on - ly five loaves of bread. The a -

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All

bel - lies start - ed rum - bl - ing, some peo - ple start - ed grum - bl - ing 'til the  
- mount was tru - ly hum - bl - ing, mo - rale was quick - ly crum - bl - ing, but they

21

All

wise man o - pened up his arms and said:  
prayed to - ge - ther as the wise man said:

**A**

25

All

*p*

As we share what we have with each oth - er, Let us sing out

31

All

joy - ful - ly, May a - bun - dance lead to

36

All

grat - i - tude; then to — gen - er - os - i - ty.

41 **B**

S

A

(p) *mf*

La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la. La, la, la,

(p) *mf*

La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la. La, la, la,

(p) *mf*

45

S

A

*f*

la, la, la, la, la, — la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

*f*

la, la, la, la, la, — la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

*f*

C

49 *mf*

All

3. O - ver - flow - ing bas - kets start - ed com - ing forth\_ be - fore their ver - y eyes.

53

All

Sud - den - ly there\_ was plen - ty, and ev' - ry - one there was fed. There was

57

All

so much that\_ was e - di - ble; the feast - ing was\_ in - cre - di - ble; and so

61 *f*

All

much left o - ver that the peo - ple\_ said:

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet ◦ Margaret & George Alexander, parents ◦ Yehuda Amichai, poet ◦ Bjorn Arneson, generous web designer ◦ Scott Bates, poet ◦ Abbie Betinis, composer/colleague ◦ Dennis Blubaugh, music dealer ◦ Michael deVernon Boblett, poet ◦ Ray Bradbury, writer ◦ Norbert Capek, visionary ◦ e. e. cummings, poet ◦ Philip Dacey, poet ◦ Emily Dickinson, poet ◦ Evelyn Dudley, poet ◦ Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister/writer ◦ Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer ◦ Richard M. Fewkes, writer ◦ Peshya Gertler, poet ◦ Richard S. Gilbert, minister/writer ◦ Jack Gallagher, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Gerike, proofreader ◦ Steve Harper, technical advisor ◦ Steve Hawkins, generous web designer ◦ Edie Hill, composer/colleague ◦ Langston Hughes, poet ◦ Mark Humphrey, piano technician ◦ Karel Husa, composer/teacher ◦ Kalidasa, poet ◦ Garrison Keillor, storyteller ◦ Denise Levertov, poet ◦ George Ella Lyon, poet ◦ Jonathan Machen, artist ◦ Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet ◦ J. David Moore, composer/colleague ◦ Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet ◦ Gerald Rich, poet ◦ Carl Sandburg, poet ◦ King Sigismund III, religious reformer ◦ Steven Stucky, composer/teacher ◦ Rabindranath Tagore, poet ◦ Howard Thurman, civil rights leader/writer ◦ John Greenleaf Whittier, poet ◦ Theodore S. Lockering Williams, poet ◦ Daniel Winter, pianist/teacher ◦ Nancy Wood, poet ◦ Yehudi Wyner, composer/teacher ◦ Paul Adams, technical advisor

# A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...



...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

**THIS PAGE HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.**

**(YOU KNOW WHY.)**

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S

Let us sing\_ out joy - ful - ly, May\_ a - bun - dance

As we\_\_\_ share what we have with each oth - er, Let us sing\_ out

A

As we\_\_\_ share what we

S

lead to grat - i - tude; then to\_\_\_ gen - er - os - i - ty.

joy - ful - ly, May a - bun - dance lead to grat - i - tude;

A

have with each oth - er, Let us sing\_ out joy - ful - ly,

As we\_\_\_ share what we have with each oth - er,



S

As we share what we have with each other, Let us  
 then to gen - er - os - i - ty. As we

A

May a - bun - dance lead to grat - i - tude; then to  
 Let us sing out joy - ful - ly, May a -

S

sing out joy - ful - ly, May a - bun - dance lead to  
 share what we have with each other, Let us sing out joy - ful -

A

gen - er - os - i - ty. As we share what we have with each  
 - bun - dance lead to grat - i - tude; then to gen - er - os - i -

108

S  
 grat - i - tude; then to gen - er - os - i - - ty.

A  
 - ly, May a - bun - dance lead to grat - i - tude;  
 oth - er, Let us sing out joy - ful - ly,  
 - ty. As we share what we have with each oth - er,

113

S  
 then to

A  
 then to gen - er - os - i - ty.  
 May a - - bun - dance lead to grat - i - tude; then to  
 Let us sing out joy - ful - ly, May a -

S  
gen - er - os - i - ty.

then to gen - er - os - i - ty.

A  
gen - er - os - i - ty.

- bun - dance lead to grat - i - tude; then to gen - er - os - i - ty.

S *p*  
then to gen - er - os - i - ty.

A *p*  
then to gen - er - os - i - ty.

A *p*  
then to gen - er - os - i - ty.

then to gen - er - os - i - ty.

*8va*