Using Handbells with the Psalter of the United Methodist Hymnal

Created and Arranged/Composed by Andrew Duncan

This guide to the use of handbells with the Psalter of the United Methodist Hymnal is intended to introduce leaders and congregations to the possibilities of non-traditional handbell use in worship. The preface of the Psalter found on page 736 gives instructions about the chanting of the psalms, which this guide will augment with options for adding handbells to the chant.

If your congregation does not chant the psalms, but does sing the responses, this guide suggests some possibilities using very few ringers – sometimes just one – to accompany the congregational singing.

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Psalm Responses with Handbells Accompaniment 3

| Psalm 1 | 3 | Psalm 34 | ? | Psalm 78 | ? | Psalm 113 | ? |
| Psalm 2 | 4 | Psalm 36 | ? | Psalm 80 | ? | Psalm 114 | ? |
| Psalm 3 | 4 | Psalm 37 | ? | Psalm 81 | ? | Psalm 115 | ? |
| Psalm 4 | 4 | Psalm 39 | ? | Psalm 82 | ? | Psalm 116 | ? |
| Psalm 5 | 4 | Psalm 40 | ? | Psalm 84 | ? | Psalm 117 | ? |
| Psalm 6 | 5 | Psalm 41 | ? | Psalm 85 | ? | Psalm 118 | ? |
| Psalm 7 | 5 | Psalm 42 | ? | Psalm 89 | ? | Psalm 119 | ? |
| Psalm 8 | 5 | Psalm 43 | ? | Psalm 90 | ? | Psalm 121 | ? |
| Psalm 9 | 6 | Psalm 44 | ? | Psalm 91 | ? | Psalm 122 | ? |
| Psalm 10 | 6 | Psalm 46 | ? | Psalm 92 | ? | Psalm 124 | ? |
| Psalm 11 | 6 | Psalm 47 | ? | Psalm 93 | ? | Psalm 126 | ? |
| Psalm 12 | 6 | Psalm 48 | ? | Psalm 95 | ? | Psalm 130 | ? |
| Psalm 13 | 7 | Psalm 50 | ? | Psalm 96 | ? | Psalm 132 | ? |
| Psalm 14 | 7 | Psalm 51 | ? | Psalm 97 | ? | Psalm 133 | ? |
| Psalm 15 | 7 | Psalm 62 | ? | Psalm 98 | ? | Psalm 134 | ? |
| Psalm 16 | 8 | Psalm 63 | ? | Psalm 99 | ? | Psalm 135 | ? |
| Psalm 17 | 8 | Psalm 65 | ? | Psalm 100 | ? | Psalm 137 | ? |
| Psalm 18 | 9 | Psalm 66 | ? | Psalm 102 | ? | Psalm 138 | ? |
| Psalm 19 | 9 | Psalm 67 | ? | Psalm 103 | ? | Psalm 139 | ? |
| Psalm 20 | 9 | Psalm 68 | ? | Psalm 104 | ? | Psalm 143 | ? |
| Psalm 21 | 10 | Psalm 70 | ? | Psalm 105 | ? | Psalm 145 | ? |
| Psalm 22 | 10 | Psalm 71 | ? | Psalm 106 | ? | Psalm 146 | ? |
| Psalm 23 | 10 | Psalm 72 | ? | Psalm 107 | ? | Psalm 147 | ? |
| Psalm 24 | 11 | Psalm 76 | ? | Psalm 111 | ? | Psalm 148 | ? |
Chanting the Psalms with Handbells

Based on the five suggested psalm tones on page 737 for the leader and congregation, here are five handbell patterns that support the corresponding psalm tones. These patterns are not intended to be used with any other accompaniment. In all examples, the measures are marked 1-4:

1. This pattern is played once to establish the tonality and starting pitch for the cantor.
2. This is played as the congregation chants its response.
3. This is played as the cantor chants.
4. This is used in place of the musical response, or can be used in place of the opening pattern to establish the tonality and starting pitch.

All patterns are LV, but should be damped from section to section if the harmony changes.

Psalm Tone Number 1 (C Major)

Psalm Tone Number 2 (F Major)

Psalm Tone Number 3 (B-flat Major, sounds in E-flat Major)
Psalms Responses with Handbell Accompaniment

The Psalter is frequently used without chanting psalm tones. The following examples are handbell ostinati that can be used to accompany the musical responses indicated in the hymnal. They do not have to be played in the written octave. These patterns are not intended to be used with any other accompaniment.

Psalm 1, page 738

Response 1

LV

\[\begin{array}{c}
\text{introduction} \\
\text{congregation sings}
\end{array}\]
Psalm 2, page 739

Response 1
LV

Psalm 3, page 740

Response
LV

Psalm 4, page 741

Response
LV

Psalm 5, page 742

Response
LV
Psalm 8, page 743

Response 1

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{LV} \\
\begin{array}{c}
\text{introduction} \\
\text{congregation sings}
\end{array}
\end{array}
\]

Response 2

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{LV} \\
\begin{array}{c}
\text{introduction} \\
\text{congregation sings}
\end{array}
\end{array}
\]

Response 2 (Alternate version)

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{echo on beats 3 & 4} \\
\text{echo on beats 2, 3, 4, & 1}
\end{array}
\]

Psalm 9, page 744

Response

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{LV opt. double 8\textsuperscript{o}} \\
\begin{array}{c}
\text{introduction} \\
\text{congregation sings}
\end{array}
\end{array}
\]

Psalm 10, page 745

Response

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{LV} \\
\begin{array}{c}
\text{introduction} \\
\text{congregation sings}
\end{array}
\end{array}
\]
Psalm 13, page 746

Response

---

Psalm 14, page 746

Response

---

Psalm 15, page 747

Response

---

Psalm 16:5-11, page 748

Response 1

---

Response 2

---
Psalm 17:1-7, 15, page 749

Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LV</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>LV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>intro</td>
<td>cong</td>
<td>intro</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Psalm 19, page 750

Response 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>intro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Response 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>intro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Response 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>intro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Response 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>intro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Psalm 23, page 754

Response 1

Response 2

Psalm 24, page 755

Response 1

Response 2
Psalm 25, page 756

Response 1
LV

Psalm 27, page 758

Response
LV

Psalm 28, page 760

Response
LV

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Psalm 29, page 761

Response

R f

introduction  congregation sings

Psalm 30, page 762

Response

introduction  congregation sings

Lower stems LV

Psalm 31, page 764

Response 1

LV

Response 2

introduction  congregation sings
Psalm 32, page 766

Response

introduction  congregation sings