Israel's Hope (On Your Journey To Bethlehem)
Jeremy Dunn/Dan Wilt

Intro: G C F Am
G C F G C

G C F Am
Ancient times held a slaving people,
G C F G
Yearning for deliverance;
G C F Am
Long deferred in their hope, grown weaker,
G C F G C
Hope is stirring in one small town

F G C F G Am
Truth and Grace, arrayed in straw
F G Am F G
Israel's Hope, in a manger lay

G C F Am
Lift your eyes to the star before you,
G C F G C
On your journey to Bethlehem

Angels stride through the sky above you
Voices murmur in disbelief
Some they fall to the ground in worship
Others blinded by cynic schemes

Truth and Grace, arrayed in straw
Israel's Hope, in a manger lay

Steel your gaze on the star that guides you,
On your journey to Bethlehem

Instrumental:
G C F Am
G C F G
G C F Am
G C F G C

"House of Bread," no distinguished namesake
No great city to draw you on,
Humble streets lead her pilgrims homeward,
Bread of Life in her arms she holds

Truth and Grace, arrayed in straw
Israel's Hope, in a manger lay

Set your heart on the star above you,
On your journey to Bethlehem

Here you stand with the host around you,
All believing we see the stall;
"Come, Lord come" is our song united,
Lord of Life, we've come to call

Truth and Grace, arrayed in straw
Israel's Hope, in a manger lay

Find your faith robed in stars around you,
On your journey to Bethlehem

SongStory:
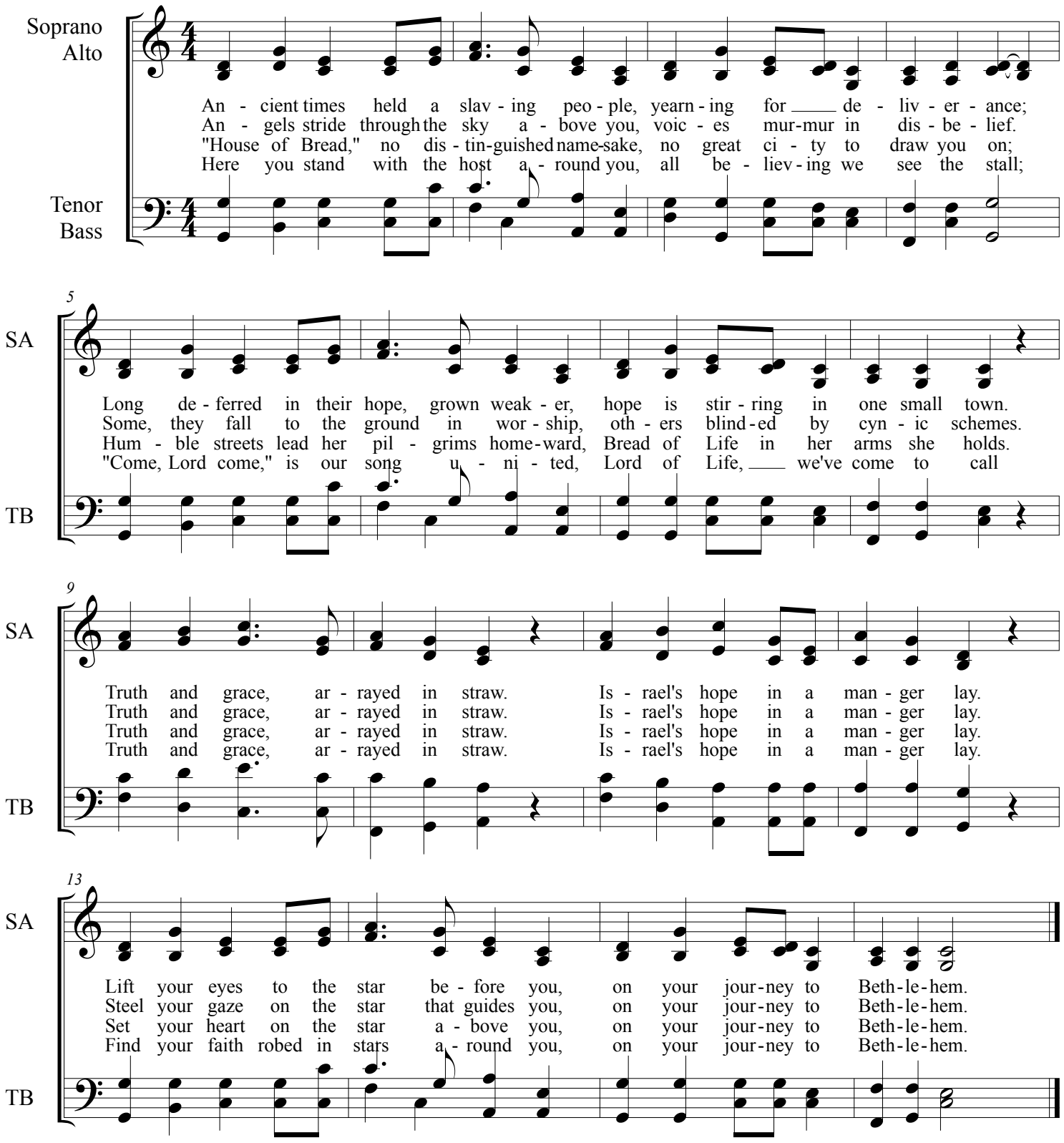
Israel's Hope (On Your Journey To Bethlehem) is a hymn I (Dan) have been wanting to write for some time. When Jeremy's melody and textures came to the table, the lyrics almost burst out of me. Israel, few remember, means "He struggles with God." Bethlehem, few know, means "House Of Bread." That fact that the "Bread Of Life" was born in this little village of a struggling people is a beautiful metaphor for the hungry heart. I also wanted to make the lyrics speak of a journey of the heart, that made the worshipper sense physical progression toward the House Of Bread. "Lift your eyes to the star before you," "Steel your gaze on the star that guides you," "Set your heart on the star above you," and "Find your faith robed in stars around you" take us on a mental journey to the manger. Finally, the theme of Israel's (He struggles with God) deliver coming "arrayed in straw" is a rich theological idea moving the community from exile back to a state of returning to God. To take the Advent journey to Bethlehem, is to return home to the One who Himself is our Home.

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ISRAEL'S HOPE

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