

Forward! be our watchword

Henry Gadsby, 1875

St. Boniface
65.65 Triple

The image shows a piano accompaniment for the hymn 'Forward! be our watchword'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system starts with a treble clef and a bass clef, with a '5' above the treble staff. The second system starts with a treble clef and a bass clef, with a '10' above the treble staff. The third system starts with a treble clef and a bass clef, with a '15' above the treble staff. The fourth system starts with a treble clef and a bass clef, with a '20' above the treble staff. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with chords and some melodic lines.

Forward! be our watchword, steps and voices joined;
Seek the things before us, not a look behind;
Burns the fiery pillar at our army's head;
Who shall dream of shrinking, by our Captain led?
Forward through the desert, through the
toil and fight;
Jordan flows before us; Zion beams with light.

Glories upon glories hath our God prepared,
By the souls that love Him one day to be shared;
Eye hath not beheld them, ear hath never heard;
Nor of these hath uttered thought or speech a word;
Forward, marching eastward, where the heaven
is bright,
Till the veil be lifted, till our faith be sight.

Far o'er yon horizon rise the city towers
Where our God abideth; that fair home is ours:
Flash the streets with jasper, shine the gates
with gold;
Flows the gladdening river shedding joys untold.
Thither, onward, thither, in the Spirit's might;
Pilgrims to your country, forward into light!

To th'eternal Father loudest anthems raise;
To the Son and Spirit echo songs of praise;
To the Lord of glory, blessed Three in One,
Be by men and angels endless honor done.
Weak are earthly praises, dull the songs
of night:
Forward into triumph, forward into light!

Henry Alford