

Magdalene (1928) [1943]

Edward Joseph Collins, music

Words adapted by the composer from John 8:1-11, King James Bible

Early in the morning,  
Jesus came into the temple,  
and all the people came unto him  
and he sat down and taught them.

And the scribes and the Pharisees  
brought unto him a woman taken in adultery  
and they said unto him,  
"Now Moses in the law commanded  
that such should be stoned  
but what sayest thou?"

And Jesus stooped down  
and with his finger wrote on the ground  
as though he heard them not.

So, when they continued asking him,  
he lifted up himself and said unto them  
"He that is without sin among you,  
let him first cast a stone at her."

And again he stooped down  
and wrote on the ground.

And they which heard it  
being convicted by their own conscience  
went out one by one,  
and Jesus was left alone  
and the woman standing in the midst.

When Jesus had lifted up himself  
and saw none but the woman he said unto her,  
"Woman where are thine accusers,  
hath no man condemned thee?"

She said  
"No man, Lord."

And Jesus said,  
"Neither do I condemn thee."