

Flexible Pieces For Communion

Let Us Keep the Feast

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Foreword

As church pianists, we often have the great privilege of playing music for Communion in worship services. This usually requires providing music of uncertain duration and sometimes adjusting that duration in real time. The nature of Communion makes this a given, but there is the potential for added uncertainty as well: unexpected variations in congregational attendance (due to weather, vacations, holidays, etc.); an unfamiliar venue (such as a different room or even a different church altogether, if one is a substitute pianist); or even a change in the Communion procedure itself.

At the small church where I was pianist and music director for many years, we used to gather in our Fellowship Hall each spring for our intimate and beloved Maundy Thursday service, the only regular service not typically held in our sanctuary. People were seated in groups of eight or so around tables. They first shared a simple meal and then remained for the service when the meal had ended. Communion was brought to each table by its respective deacon, and the timing of the whole process was always very different from that of Communion in the sanctuary on Sunday morning! With only one chance each year to play this service, in its less-familiar setting, it took me several years to gain a feel for the timing of Communion there. During the first few years, I relied heavily on improvisation to make the music synchronize with the serving of the elements.

My goal in writing this collection was to provide music for situations such as these, where the performer needs many options to navigate challenges and surprises. All the pieces in this collection have built-in flexibility throughout—optional repeats, cuts that will sound smooth, and multiple endings—in order to provide options to get you close to where you will need to be timewise. Most of these pieces also have lots of extra flexibility at the end, providing multiple avenues for navigating closure “on the fly,” either by extending the music or cutting it short.

Every piece in this book can easily be extended to more than five minutes in length (even without playing repeated sections more than twice) or be shorter than 2:30. At least four pieces may be performed in one minute or less. Because each piece is of indefinite length (depending on the choices the performer makes), duration indications have intentionally been left out.

As you approach this collection, it’s a good idea to have a plan for a given piece based on your estimate of the amount of time for which music will be needed—Will you need to play all the repeats? Some of them? None of them? Will you need to make any cuts?—and prepare and practice it accordingly. I also recommend practicing different possible versions of these pieces, particularly the ending options, so that you will be familiar enough with the music to make any real-time jump or cut comfortably if needed.

I hope this music will be beneficial to church pianists who need flexible music to perform at Communion, and that it is both spiritually inspiring and conducive to reflection for all who hear and play it.

—Todd Beaney

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Let Us Break Bread Together

Todd Beaney

Tune: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

African American Spiritual

Gently, in two $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$

The musical score is written for piano in two staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The tempo is marked 'Gently, in two' with a quarter note equal to approximately 50 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The second system (measures 5-8) includes an 'optional repeat' sign at the beginning. The third system (measures 9-12) continues the melody and bass line. The fourth system (measures 13-16) concludes the piece. A large, stylized orange watermark reading 'Sample' is diagonally across the entire page.

17

21

1.

optional ending

rit.

25

2.

optional repeat

mf

28

32

71 *8va* *mp a tempo*

75 *(8va)* *loco* *rit.* *molto allarg.*

79 *mf a tempo* *poco rit.*

82 *slower, freely* *mp a tempo*

85 *optional shorter ending*

86 *rit.* *8vb*

The musical score consists of five systems of piano music. The first system (measures 71-74) is marked *mp a tempo* and includes an *8va* instruction. The second system (measures 75-78) includes *(8va)*, *loco*, *rit.*, and *molto allarg.* markings. The third system (measures 79-81) is marked *mf a tempo* and *poco rit.*. The fourth system (measures 82-84) includes *slower, freely* and *mp a tempo* markings, with a bracket indicating an *optional shorter ending* starting at measure 85. The fifth system (measures 86-89) is marked *rit.* and ends with an *8vb* instruction.

optional longer ending

A little slower $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 46$

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It

Todd Beaney

Tune: REDEEMED

by William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Sweetly ♩ = ca. 58

p

with pedal

5

mp

9

13

8va -----

poco rit.

17

(8va) -----

loco

Slower, freely

rit.

21 *optional ending* **Tempo I** ♩ = ca. 58

1.

a tempo

26 2.

poco rit. **mf** *a tempo*

30

33

37

poco rit. **mp** *p*

65

mf



69

cresc. *poco allarg.*



73

f a tempo



77

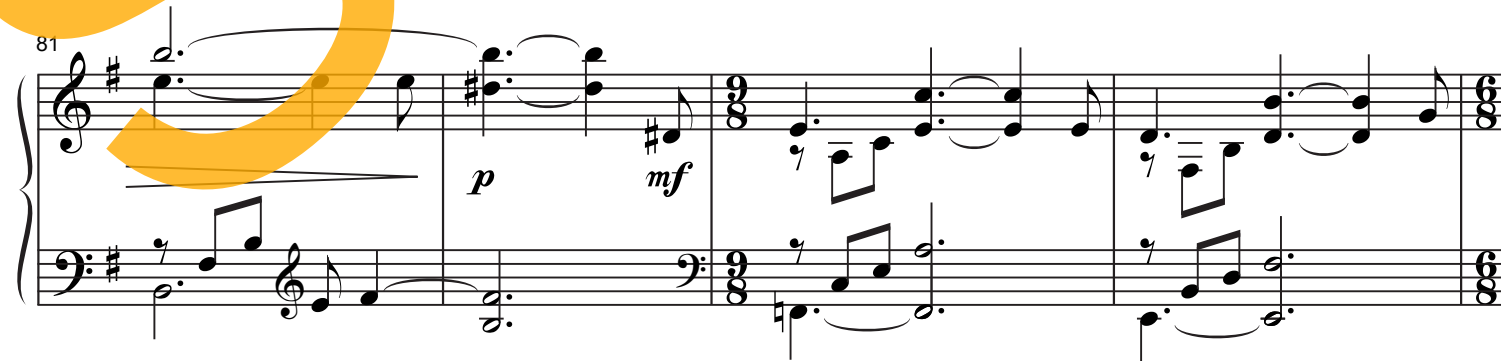
poco rit. *mf* *mp*

Slower, freely ♩ = ca. 44



81

p *mf*



85 *optional ending* **Tempo I** ♩ = ca. 58

rit. *mp* *molto rit.* *mp*

90 *optional jump to m. 100 or 104* *optional repeat as needed – jump after any double bar to m. 100*

mf

95 *optional jump to m. 104*

100 *repeat as needed* *mp*

104 **Slower, freely** *mp* *rit.* *molto rit.*

Jesus Paid It All

17

Todd Beaney
Tune: ALL TO CHRIST
by John T. Grape (1835-1915)

Tenderly ♩ = ca. 80

p

with pedal

optional repeat

mel.

mp

5

9

13

17

mf

21

poco rit.

mp
a tempo

25

p

mf

29

33

mp

p

mf

57

mf

3 3

61

mp

allarg.

65

optional repeat

f a tempo

68

1.

72

mf

poco allarg.

2.

rit.

75 77 *optional jump to m. 83, 87, or 91*

mp a tempo *p*

79 *optional repeat* *optional jump to m. 87 or 91*

mp

83 *optional repeat* *optional jump to m. 91*

mp

87 *optional repeat* *last time rit.*

mp

91 *mp slower* *molto rit.* *steadily* *8vb*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Todd Beaney

Tune: NEAR THE CROSS

by William H. Doane (1832-1915)

Gently ♩ = ca. 44

mf

with pedal

4

optional repeat

rit.

a tempo

p - mp

8

12

1. *poco rit.*

2. *poco rit.*

a tempo

16

mf

poco rit.

*optional jump
to m. 64*

20

mp a tempo

rit.

24

mf a tempo

28

poco rit.

mf a tempo

31

34

poco rit.

55 *f a tempo*

58 *l.h. poco rit. p mf a tempo*

62 *optional jump to m. 74, 87, or 89* **64** *poco allarg. f a tempo*

65

68 *rit. mf* *Slower ♩ = ca. 36* *8va* *optional jump to m. 87 or 89* *loco mp*

26

Tempo I ♩ = ca. 44

optional jump
to m. 87 or 89

74

72

rit.

a tempo
sub. *mp*

76

optional repeat as needed

80

optional jump
to m. 87 or 89

83

8va—

loco

1.

2.

optional jump
to m. 89

mp

87

optional repeat as needed

8va—

p gradually fading

loco

89

mf slower, freely

molto rit.

Let Us Keep the Feast

Todd Beaney

With reverence ♩ = ca. 84

mf

with pedal

4

p

8

mp *mf*

12

mp *p*

16 1. 2.

20 *mf*

24 3 *f* *mp*

28 *p poco rit.* *mp a tempo* *mf*

32 *mp* *p*

55

mf
mel.

59

mel.
f
mp
l.h.

63

optional jump
to m. 79

p *poco rit.*
mp *a tempo*
mf

67

p

71

optional jump to
m. 79, 83, 85, or 87

p

74 *mf* 1. *p*

78 2. 79 *optional repeat (as needed)* 1. *p* *mf* *mp*

82 2. *optional jump to m. 87* 83 *optional repeat (as needed)* *mf*

85 87 *mp rit.* *mf slower, freely*

88 *rit.* *p* 8va 8vb

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Todd Beaney

Tune: BREAD OF LIFE

by William F. Sherwin (1826-1888)

Reflectively ♩ = ca. 84

mp

with pedal

4 *8va* ----- *loco*

7 *8va* ----- *loco*

11

15

19

22

26

30

a tempo

poco rit.

a tempo

p loco

mf mel.

poco rit.

8va - - - - ,

74

78 *8va* *loco*

81 *8va* *loco*

85

89 *rit.* *slower, freely*

92

a tempo
mp

96

optional jump to
m. 102 or 106

98 optional repeat as needed

98 optional repeat as needed

100

optional jump to
m. 106

102 optional repeat as needed

102 optional repeat as needed

104

106

slower, freely

slower, freely

108

rit.

molto rit.

rit.

molto rit.

Nothing but the Blood

Todd Beaney
Tune: PLAINFIELD
by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

With great expression ♩ = ca. 80

mf

with pedal

rit.

5

a tempo

8

poco rit. *a tempo*

3

11

poco rit. *mp a tempo*

14

rit.

17

a tempo *rit.* *freely* *a tempo*

21

mf *rit.*

25

mp *a tempo* *mf* *mp*

29

mf

54

58

62

66

69

rit.

slower, freely

loco

8va

mel.

mf a tempo

optional jump to m. 88

poco rit.

a tempo

rit.

f

poco rit.

A little slower, freely

p

mf

rit.

8va

loco

Tempo I ♩ = ca. 80

73 *mp* *8va*-----

77 *loco* *mf*

80 *mp*

83 *mf* *rit.*

85

87 *mp* *mf* *molto rit.*

88 Slower

According to Thy Gracious Word

43

Todd Beaney

Tune: AVON

by Hugh Wilson (1766-1824)

Warmly ♩ = ca. 92

mp

with pedal

5

optional repeat

mf

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

mp

mf

optional repeat

1.

2.

70

70

75

75

80

80

l.h. *mf* *p* *mp*

85

85

p *l.h. pp*

optional jump
to m. 111
(•)

90

90

mf

95

95

100

optional repeat as needed

mp

100

105

1. 2.

105

optional jump to m. 116

111

mf

pp

3

110

Slower, freely ♩ = ca. 76

116

mp

molto rit.

115

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Todd Beaney

Tune: STUTTGART

by Christian Friedrich Witt (1660-1716)

Worshipfully ♩ = ca. 84

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-4) is marked *mf* and includes the instruction 'with pedal' under the bass staff. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked *mf-mp* and *a tempo*, with a repeat sign at the beginning. The third system (measures 9-12) continues the melody and accompaniment. The fourth system (measures 13-16) is marked *mf* and concludes the piece. A large, diagonal orange watermark reading 'Sample' is overlaid across the entire score. The tempo is indicated as 'Worshipfully' with a quarter note equal to approximately 84 beats per minute.

mf

poco rit.

5 *optional repeat*

mf-mp
a tempo

9

13 *mf*

17



21

8va -----

loco

p



25

optional repeat

p-mp



29

cresc.

mf

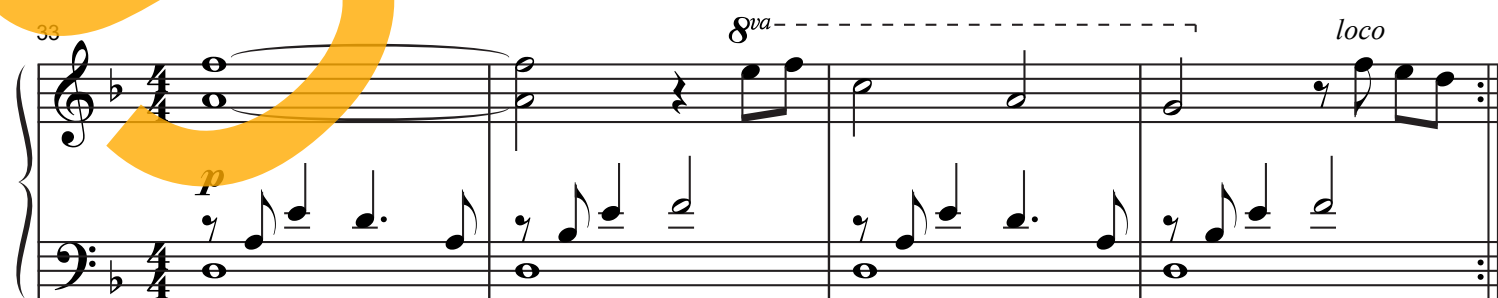


33

8va -----

loco

p



57

optional repeat
1st time: opt. 8va (both hands)
2nd time: loco

60

63

optional jump to m. 69

65

mf

66

poco rit.

69

A little slower

mp

molto rit.

p