

Psalm 111: 1

I will praise the Lord with my whole heart in the assembly of His people.

John 14: 15-17

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.

And I will ask the Father,

and He will give you another Helper who will stay with you forever.

He is the Spirit of truth.

The world cannot receive Him, because it cannot see Him or know Him.

But you know Him, because He dwells with you and in you.”

Christ Beside Me is a new musical setting of a beloved ancient prayer from *St. Patrick's Breastplate*. This prayer is a blessing, extolling the indwelling Christ, our Shield and Defender, the King of our hearts.

The gentle, triple-meter opening leads to a contrasting section in duple meter whose melody is the traditional American hymn tune commonly known as *Holy Manna (Brethren, We Have Met to Worship)*. Appropriate for worship throughout the year, **Christ Beside Me** may be especially appropriate for Lent, Eastertide, Ascension and Pentecost. Suggested corresponding scripture readings include Psalms 110 and 111, Proverbs 3: 13-18, John 14: 15-31, Ephesians 3: 14-21 and Colossians 3: 12-17.

Tom Fettke is a well-known composer, arranger and producer of music and recordings for church and school. Widely published, his music has been performed by thousands of choirs throughout the world. In considerable demand as a guest conductor, clinician and workshop leader, he also has served as Senior Editor for several distinguished hymnals. A church choir director and minister of music in churches large and small for over 30 years, Tom lives in Brentwood, Tennessee.

CHRIST BESIDE ME

for 2-part mixed voices and keyboard*

Adapted from
St. Patrick's Breastplate

Music by
TOM FETTKE

With warmth (♩ = ca. 80)

KEYBOARD *mp*

6

WOMEN *a tempo mp*

Christ be be - side me, Christ be be - fore me,

MEN *mp*

a tempo

10

Christ be be - hind me, the King of my heart;

* Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 22738.

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14

mf

cresc.

Christ be with - in me, Christ be be - low me, Christ be a -

mf

cresc.

bove me - He will nev - er de - part.

mf

cresc.

19

f

bove me - He will nev - er de - part.

f

23

emphatic

mf

*Christ on my right hand, _____ Christ on my left hand, _____

mf

Christ on my right hand, _____

mf

* Traditional American melody from *Columbian Harmony*, 1825.

26

Christ all a-round me - Shield in the

Christ on my left hand, - Christ all a-round me - Shield in the

29 30

strife; Christ in my sleep - ing, -

strife; Christ in my sleep - ing, -

32

Christ in my sit - ting, - Christ in my ris - ing,

Christ in my sit - ting, -

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35 *rit.*

Light of my life.

decresc. rit.

40 *a tempo mp*

Christ be be - side me, Christ be be - fore me,

mp

mp a tempo

44

Christ be be - hind me, the King of my heart;

48

mf

Christ be with - in me, Christ be be - low me,

mf

mf

52

cresc.

Christ be a - bove me - He will nev - er de - part.

cresc.

rit.
f

cresc.

f rit.

56

a tempo

A - men!

a tempo