

Compassion Hymn is an anthem that should be sung sweetly and gently in keeping with the text. Take care to sing *legato* throughout. One of the joys I experienced while arranging this beautiful song was the discovery that its melody can be sung simultaneously with “Amazing Grace.” Since the hymn tune is found in the keyboard, it is important that the accompanist brings out the right hand so that this duet between the piano and the choir is evident. - Craig Courtney

Craig Courtney, after receiving bachelor’s and master’s degrees in piano performance at the University of Cincinnati, went on to study and perform in Milan, Italy, for three years. He was then invited to serve on the faculty of the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, for six years.

It was during this six-year period that Craig began directing a choir and composing choral music. In 1985, his compositions came to the attention of composer and publisher, John Ness Beck, through the publication of his octavo, “Thy Will Be Done.” It initiated a close working relationship between the two men that continued until Mr. Beck’s death in 1987. In making plans for the ongoing of Beckenhorst Press, Mr. Beck appointed Craig to assume his responsibilities as staff composer and editor. In 2004, he was also invited to serve on the faculty of Capital University, Bexley, Ohio, where he teaches choral arranging and directs the Chordsmen.

In demand throughout the world as a director and composer, Craig’s published works include more than 300 choral octavos, nine vocal collections, three piano solo collections, and six extended works for choir and orchestra. His music has been translated into several foreign languages. He has been a frequent recipient of ASCAP achievement awards and his composition, “Peace I Give to You,” was awarded first place in the 2003 John Ness Beck Foundation competition.

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COMPASSION HYMN

3

for S.A.B. voices, accompanied*

Arranged by
CRAIG COURTNEY (ASCAP)

Words and Music by
KEITH GETTY, KRISTYN GETTY
and STUART TOWNEND

With gratitude (♩ = ca. 86)

ACCOMP.

4 SOPRANO / ALTO

mp 5

There is an ev - er - last - ing kind - ness. You lay - ished on

8

us when the Ra - dian - ce of heav - en came to res - cue the

* To purchase a full-length performance recording (44253) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.

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44253

12

13

lost; You called the sheep with-out a shep - herd_ to leave their dis -

16

tress for Your streams of ____ for-give-ness_ and the shade of Your

20

rest.

24 SOPRANO / ALTO

mp

25

And with com - pas - sion for the hurt - ing, — You
**We stood be - neath the cross of Cal - v'ry — and*

BARITONE

mp

27

reached out — Your hand as the lame ran — to
 gazed on — Your face, at the thorns of — op -

30

meet You — and the dead breathed a — gain; You saw be -
 pres - sion — and the wounds of dis - grace; for sure - ly

*Alternate text for Lent/Easter use.

33

hind the eyes of sor - row — and shared in our
You have borne our suf - f'ring — and car - ried our

36

tears, heard the sigh of the weary, let the
grief as You par - doned the scoff - er and showed

39

chil - dren draw near. What bound - less
grace to the thief. thief. , mf

41

42

love, what fath - om - less grace _____ You have

45

shown us, _____ O God of com - pas -

48

sion! Each day we live, an of - f'ring of

52

praise — as we show to the world Your com -

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55

pas - sion.

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59

rit.

rit.

63 *f* 64 *a tempo*

How beau - ti - ful the feet that car - ry — this

bring out RH * *a tempo*

f

66 gos - pel — of peace to the fields of — in -

69 ius - tice — and the val - leys of need To be a

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72

voice of hope and heal - ing, — to an - swer the

75

cries of the hun - gry — and help - less — with the

78

mer - cy of Christ. What bound - less

80

81

love, what fath - om - less grace You have shown us, — O

85

God of com - pas - sion! Each day we

88

89

live, an of - f'ring of praise — as we

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92

show to the world Your com - pas -

96

sion. What

mf dim. poco a poco al fine

rit.

100

bound - less love, A - men.

p

8vb