

How Great the Love of Jesus - Sometimes when I think about what Jesus did for me, I'm overwhelmed with appreciation for the gift of His life. John 15:13 tells us that there is no greater love that anyone can show than to lay down their life for their friends.

This song is meant to remind us that the love Jesus showed for us is the greatest example of love, ever. Willingly, voluntarily, Jesus left the glory of heaven and His Father's presence to become a human; with every weakness and vulnerability that we endure. Almighty God was born a helpless infant, He learned and grew as a child, He apprenticed in a skill as a young adult. All the while, knowing He was destined to die a horrible death on Calvary to provide a way for us to be forgiven and spend eternity with Him.

As you prepare and present this song, think about the message of the words you are singing. Pay careful attention to the dynamics, the crescendos and diminuendos, the rallentandos and a tempos; every musical expression will draw attention to the words and help the message come through to the listener. Pronounce the words very carefully and with good diction. You may have sung them dozens of times, but the listener only has one chance to understand what you are saying.

Above all, sing with heartfelt gratitude, with intensity befitting the text even when the volume is soft. Build throughout the piece to the pickup to measure 60, where the volume is forte. From this apex, begin to come down in volume to the final statement (mezzo piano) of the poignant title.

– Ruth Elaine Schram

Ruth Elaine Schram lives in Birmingham, Alabama, where she is a full-time composer and arranger. She currently has over 2,000 published works for all types of choirs, soloists, instrumentalists and keyboard. In addition to her printed choral music, her songs appear on numerous recordings and videos and have been heard on various television shows. Visit her website at www.choralmusic.com.

HOW GREAT THE LOVE OF JESUS

3

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words and Music by
RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 84)

ACCOMP. *p* *poco rall.*

4 SOPRANO *a tempo* *mp*
ALTO *mp*
TENOR *mp*
BASS *mp*

a tempo *mp*

7
great the love of Je - sus, of Je - sus for His

7
3

* To purchase a full-length performance recording (46869) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.

Also available: FlexTrax Accompaniment CD, Vol. 7 (46868)

Orchestration CD-ROM (46870) (Score and parts for Flute, Oboe, Handbells, Percussion, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, String Bass)

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46869

own; to leave His Fa - ther's glo - ry, to

leave His Fa - ther's throne; to lock Him - self in -

side, in - side this shell of flesh and bone; How

19

poco rall.

a tempo

cresc.

great the love of Je - sus for His own.

cresc.

own,

His

a tempo

cresc.

poco rall.

22

mf

23

How great the love of Je - sus; how

mf

own.

23

mf

25

great the heart of God, to lend His ho - ly

pres - ence, to send His on - ly Son; to

31

pur - chase our re - demp - tion with His pre - cious

dim.

31

dim.

34

blood. How great the love of Je - sus; how

mp

mp

37

love *poco rall.*

of Je - sus.

great the love, how great the love of Je - sus.

poco rall.

40

a tempo

poco rall.

a tempo

poco rall.

43

mp **44** *a tempo*

How great the love of Je - sus for

44 *a tempo*

all of hu - man - kind; to share with His dis -

ci - ples, to share the bread and wine, to

cresc. poco a poco

wash the ver - y feet that He Him - self de -

cresc. poco a poco

feet, feet that

cresc. poco a poco

55

mf *rall.*

signed; how great the love of Je - sus for hu-man-

mf *rall.*

58

kind, for hu - man - kind! How great the love of

f *a tempo* **60**

f *a tempo* **60**

61

Je - sus, how great the heart of God, to

64

lend His ho - ly pres - ence, to

66

send His on - ly Son; to pur - chase our re -

mf 68

2 1 *mf* 68

69

poco rall.

demp - tion with His pre - cious blood. How

poco rall.



72

a tempo

unis.

great the love of Je - sus. How

unis.

a tempo

74

molto rall.

How great the love

mf

dim.

great the love of Je - sus! How great the

dim.

74

molto rall.

f

mf

dim.

77

rall.

love of Je - sus.

mp

mp

mp

rall.

8^{va}