

**CuthbertPraise!**

**CuthbertPraise! Hymn-of-the-Month Newsletter**

**It's Finally Here—Our First Newsletter!**

I am so excited to be writing this very first *Cuthbert-Praise!* Hymn-of-the-Month Newsletter! I've thought for weeks, even months, about what to say. I've organized it all very carefully in my mind many times over, and now that I'm finally writing it I don't know what to say! I've decided the tone of this first newsletter should be more personal, because the few of you who have signed up for the newsletter are such...

[More Details](#)

**Why So Many Parts? - Part 1 "Creative Keyboarding"**

Over the years the St. Cuthbert Music Ministry has gradually incorporated more contemporary sounds into the worship service, employing the use of guitar, bass guitar, drums and keyboard in addition to the standard choir and piano. The synthesizer keyboard has proven itself a versatile and easily accessible addition to the ensemble. A keyboard player with only modest skills...

[More Details](#)

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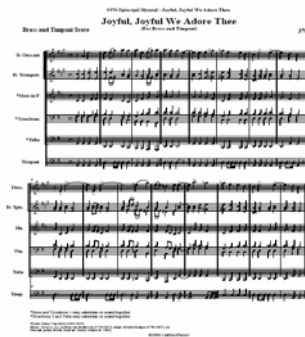


Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
This Month's Free Download

**Getting the Word Out!**

*CuthbertPraise!* In the *Texas Episcopalian* and the *Exultate Deo* Newsletter of the Diocese of Texas Music Commission! [Click here to see our article in Exultate Deo](#) and find out what the Diocese of Texas Music Commission is up to!

**This Issue's Free Hymn-of-the-Month: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**



[Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee — this month's free download.](#)

Well, here it is—our May offering to you. To print your hymn open the attachment tab and click. You'll need [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#), available on the [Adobe](#) website, but most everyone has that anyway. I recommend using the latest version of Acrobat Reader (7.0) so you can make use of bookmarks and indexing provided in the program. This download of "Joyful, Joyful" is the complete arrangement including parts for guitar, bass, timpani, brass ensemble (duet, trio, quartet, quintet, or more!), and various woodwind and string instruments (such as clarinet, oboe, violin and even saxophone). Please tell your friends about this free download! I'd like to give it to as many churches as possible! Let's get more of our church members involved in making a joyful noise unto the LORD!"

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [RandyAdams@CuthbertPraise.com](mailto:RandyAdams@CuthbertPraise.com)

## ***CuthbertPraise!*** Hymn-of-the-Month Newsletter, Page Two

### **Why So Many Parts? (cont'd from Page One)**

...can be employed to play sustained chords or obbligatos over the hymns using a string or soft padding patch ("patch" is the word used for any particular sound setting). Most synthesizer keyboards also have a number of percussion patches including drum set and timpani. With just a little practice it's possible to provide a pretty convincing drum set part for a contemporary Christian song, praise chorus or even occasionally a traditional hymn. This has a way of drawing the congregation into active and lively contemporary worship without the volume or space requirements of an acoustic drum kit or set of timpani drums. And the familiarity of popular style accompaniments can be a way of drawing in your younger worshippers and "seekers" (boomers and X-ers too)!

Since St. Cuthbert doesn't have an organ, we occasionally use a pipe organ patch on the keyboard to accompany the hymns. The synthesizer may also be used to add descant or obbligato lines using, for example, a flute or trumpet patch. If you are using one of our hymn arrangements with guitar and/or piano and you have a synthesizer but no flute (or other wind or string instrument), try playing the ***CuthbertPraise!*** descant on the synth. using a flute, string or vox patch; then for the last verse of the hymn switch to a timpani patch for added emphasis. On verses where you are not using descant or timp, try using a bass patch and playing the bass guitar part. You'll find that adding the warmth and power of a bass instrument (or bass synth patch) provides a confidence-inspiring foundation to the hymn accompaniment for your singers—especially if all you were using before was piano and guitar. It's almost like having a pipe organ but with a slightly more contemporary sound. If you're not sure how your parish will respond to these new sounds, try adding them very conservatively at first, keeping the volume levels just barely loud enough to "fill in the gaps" but not overtly noticeable. You can get more creative as you and your congregation become more comfortable with the new colors you are adding. And "colors" is the operative word here. You don't want to be obtrusive with these new sounds, because that will tend to draw the worshippers' attention to the cool sounds themselves rather than to the beautiful and creative God they are praising. Our job is to usher our congregations into the presence of our holy and awesome God. And I believe God wants and expects His musicians to be creative and thoughtful in their ministry to Him and His people!

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."  
Ecc. 9:10

Tune in next month for more ideas for using instruments!

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## ***CuthbertPraise!*** Hymn-of-the-Month Newsletter, Page Two

It's Finally Here— (cont'd from page 1)

...(Boy, how was that for a cliff-hanger!?)

...as I was saying... you all have been so helpful and supportive (and patient!) with me during my first efforts at this hymn project, I really do feel like we're all good friends working together on the same team! Thank you all for all your helpful encouragement and excellent advice during the past few months. And thank you for your orders and enthusiasm for the project!

This spring we have managed to add twelve new hymn arrangements to the collection and a new arrangement (just finished!) of the beautiful Cantic 20 Gloria (S280, Robert Powell setting, in the Service Music Hymnal). This wonderfully reverent and uplifting setting of "Glory to God" has been crying out for brass, timpani and guitar for years! The guitar chords to S280 are a little more challenging than most of our other hymn arrangements because of extensive use of M7 chords and a few altered bass notes; however, there are fret-board diagrams above each chord symbol with my own preferred suggestions for fingerings which make the part very accessible for intermediate level guitar players. I'm also very happy with the way the descant works in this arrangement!

Currently we are working on getting some hymn requests finished and then it's back to completing another section in the Hymnal. I'll be taking advantage of summer break and putting the hymn project back into high gear!

If you like what we're doing here at *CuthbertPraise!* please tell your friends and colleagues. I think every Episcopal congregation, youth group, home Bible study, Sunday school class and VBS in the country could benefit from this project! Every church has someone who plays a guitar or trumpet (or even a saxophone!) who would like to be involved in music ministry! Every church has group gatherings that could use a guitar to accompany the singing of our inspiring and doctrinally sound Episcopal hymns! Please help me spread the word!

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# **PSALM 150**

**Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.**

**Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.**

**Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.**

**Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.**

**Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.**

**Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.**