

CuthbertPraise! Hymn-of-the-Month Newsletter

Newsletter No. 3, and Almost On Time!

October is here and cooler weather is reminding us that it's time to start thinking about Advent. OK, it's not really very cool here in Houston yet - we're still having daytime temperatures in the 90's! But fall is in the air, nonetheless, and the Advent season will be upon us before we know it. If you are planning to use guitars or other instruments for your Advent services, be sure and check the CuthbertPraise Advent Collect-

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Adding Guitar to your Liturgy—Part 2 “Nuts and Bolts”

Last month we talked about some of the compelling reasons to add guitar to your liturgical service. This time we'll explore some ways to integrate guitar into your existing music team. The guitar can be used either along with piano/organ (and other instruments) or by itself to accompany hymns. If using guitar with other instruments, such as the piano or organ, try varying the accompaniment style and volume on...

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Vol. 1, Issue 3, Oct. 2006



**I Love Thy Kingdom
("St. Thomas")**
This Month's Free Download

Getting the Word Out!

If you like what you see, please help us spread the word. Tell your friends and colleagues what we're up to here at CuthbertPraise.com. We think they'll be glad you did!

This Issue's Free Hymn-of-the-Month: I Love Thy Kingdom ("St. Thomas")



I Love Thy Kingdom ("St. Thomas")
[this month's free download.](#)

Well, here it is—our October offering to you. To download your hymn open the attachment tab left. 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 "I Love Thy Kingdom" is the complete arrangement including guitar, bass, timpani, brass ensemble (duet, trio, quartet, quintet, sextet 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

Questions or Comments? E-Mail us at RandyAdams@CuthbertPraise.com

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Almost on Time! (cont'd from Page One)

...CuthbertPraise Advent collection. We have guitar parts, descants and brass arrangements for 21 of the 23 Advent hymns in the Episcopal Hymnal. Adding a guitar and a solo instrument such as flute, trumpet or violin, is very easy to do and it can have a huge impact on your church's liturgy and worship experience. Also, that guitar or flute player's participation on your music team, either regularly or on special occasions, can provide a way for God to touch the lives of your musicians and singers in ways you could never have imagined.

New hymns for this month are #524 **I Love Thy Kingdom** ("St. Thomas") and #628 **Help Us O Lord** ("Ethelwald"). This month's "Hymn-of-the-Month" is #524 **I Love Thy Kingdom** ("St. Thomas"). The hymn is in F Major and includes a Capo-3 version in D Major for the guitars. The descant part is a very active fanfare that will require a fairly competent player. The range is moderate (middle C to top-line F), but the rhythm moves quickly. We used the descant (trumpet), guitar, bass and timpani (synth) on this hymn at St. Cuthbert just last week and really enjoyed it! I hope you do too!

Be sure and drop in for a visit to www.cuthbertpraise.com sometime soon. New hymns are being added every month and some fresh changes are coming to the website in the very near future.

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Adding Guitar Part 2—Nuts and Bolts— (cont'd from page)

...different verses. For instance, use a finger-picking style on interior verses of hymns and a strong, rhythmic strumming on the first and last verses for emphasis. If the guitar is being used without keyboard instruments the stronger, rhythmic strumming style will work best throughout the entire hymn – remember, your guitarist is providing support and encouragement for the proclaiming of the truth in the text of the hymn. The faint “leaven” of the guitar mixed with the powerful, majestic sounds of the piano, organ and choir can lend an almost imperceptible warmth and invitation to your congregation to join in the singing and worship as they hear the call of the holy and majestic Heavenly Father in the grand organ and piano sounds and the sweet beckoning of the Lamb of God and the gentle Holy Spirit in the guitar.

If you're using the guitar along with other instruments such as piano or organ it's a good idea to let the keyboard instruments take the lead and keep the guitar in more of a supportive role. The keyboards are usually the ones carrying the tune, and the congregation needs to hear that tune above all the other instrumental sounds. The guitar – acoustic or electric – can provide rhythmic and harmonic reinforcement adding a richer texture to the overall picture. If you have both an acoustic and an electric guitar available try having the acoustic guitar strum a rhythm pattern and the electric guitar double the melody line along with the keyboards. This can also be helpful if you are using two guitars and have no keyboard instruments available. Try to vary the texture from verse to verse though. For instance, on a four-verse hymn you could have the whole ensemble play the first verse – strumming guitars, piano and organ; next verse have guitars back off a bit and use a finger-picking pattern or drop out entirely. The third and fourth verses can be progressively louder and more rhythmically active. It's often effective to choose a slightly slower tempo along with a louder, heavier style of playing for the final verse in order to provide emphasis and to drive the point home with a note of strength and triumph. Study the words of the hymn to see if there are ways to help color the text by varying the rhythm or style. For instance, passages that refer to Christ our King – “Crown Him the Lord of Heaven, enthroned in worlds above; crown Him the King, to Whom is given the wondrous name of Love” – these words beg for strong rhythms depicting trumpet fanfares, triplet figures, accents, strong downbeats and maybe a slightly slower, more stately tempo. “My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is His Name; in pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream” calls for a gentler sounding accompaniment, simpler rhythms and perhaps a soft finger-style right hand technique. But in order to catch this, the guitarist must study the hymn text and not just the chords and music. Remember, the music is there for the sake of the text – to drive the words into deeper regions of the soul and cause them to linger there over and over again so that God can mold, teach and encourage His people, and so that His people can praise Him deeper and more powerfully – “in spirit and in truth.”

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