

Help Me Have the Faith of a Child

(Winner of the Church of the Servant 2011 New Psalm Contest, in memory of Ben Fackler)

Paraphrase of Psalm 131

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Intro

Capo 1: (C) D^b (Dm7) E^bm7 (Em7) Fm7 (Am7) B^bm7 (F) G^b (F/G) (G7) G^b/A^b A^b7 (C) D^b (F/G) G^b/A^b

Piano

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat major/C minor). It consists of 8 measures. The right hand features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of quarter notes. The piece concludes with a final chord in the key of C minor.

Refrain (may be sung or hummed as an ostinato)

5 *cresc.* trust-ing in you a - lone. *>*

Help me have the faith of a child, O God, trust-ing in you, you a - lone.

trust-ing in you a - lone. *>*

Pno. *cresc.*

(C) D^b (Dm7) E^bm7 (Em7) Fm7 (Am7) B^bm7 (Dm7) E^bm7 (F/G) (G7) G^b/A^b A^b7 (C) D^b (Dm7/G) (G) E^bm7/A^b A^b

The first refrain begins at measure 5. The vocal line starts with a piano dynamic and a crescendo. The lyrics are: "Help me have the faith of a child, O God, trust-ing in you, you a - lone." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line of quarter notes in the left hand. The key signature remains three flats. The section ends with a final chord in the key of C minor.

9 *cresc.* *last time To Verses*

Help me have the faith of a child, O God, trust-ing in you a - lone. *last time*

Pno. *cresc.* *last time To Verses*

(C) D^b (Dm7) E^bm7 (Em7) Fm7 (Am7) B^bm7 (F) G^b (F/G) (G7) G^b/A^b A^b7 (C) D^b (Dm7/G) E^bm7/A^b A^b

The second refrain begins at measure 9. It follows the same musical structure as the first refrain, with a piano dynamic and a crescendo. The lyrics are: "Help me have the faith of a child, O God, trust-ing in you a - lone." The piano accompaniment is consistent with the first refrain. The section concludes with a final chord in the key of C minor, marked "last time To Verses".

Help Me Have the Faith of a Child

Verses (may be sung by cantor/choir or congregation, either superimposed over Refrain or sung separately)

13

1. O_ Lord, my heart is not too proud;
 2. O_ Lord, my soul is at peace,
 3. Is - ra - el, have pa - tience in the Lord,

13

(C) (Dm7) (Em7) (Am7) (Dm7) (F/G) (G7) (C) (F/G)
 D^b E^bm7 Fm7 B^bm7 E^bm7 G^b/A^b A^b7 D^b G^b/A^b

mp

17

and I have not looked too high, nor tried to reach too far.
 and as a child at rest, so is my soul in You.
 and wait, O wait on God. Keep hope with - in your heart.

17

(C) (Dm7) (Em7) (Am7) (F) (F/G) (G7) (C) (F/G)
 D^b E^bm7 Fm7 B^bm7 G^b G^b/A^b A^b7 D^b G^b/A^b

To Refrain

Pno.

The image shows a musical score for piano and voice. It is divided into two systems. The first system, starting at measure 13, contains three verses of lyrics. The piano accompaniment is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '1. O_ Lord, my heart is not too proud; 2. O_ Lord, my soul is at peace, 3. Is - ra - el, have pa - tience in the Lord,'. The piano part features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system, starting at measure 17, contains the refrain lyrics: 'and I have not looked too high, nor tried to reach too far. and as a child at rest, so is my soul in You. and wait, O wait on God. Keep hope with - in your heart.' The piano accompaniment continues with the same harmonic structure. The score includes dynamic markings like 'mp' and 'To Refrain'.

This is a simple setting of Psalm 131, using a paraphrase of the psalm. The refrain may be sung as an ostinato, with words or humming softly under the verses. The verses may be sung by cantor, choir, or even a congregation if the refrain and verses are sung in alternation.