

Rejoice Always

Refrain text based on
1 Thess 5:16-18

Paul Hillebrand

INTRO: *Gospel style* (♩ = ca. 126)

Keyboard

REFRAIN & VERSES:

Soprano/Cantor/Melody

Alto

Refrain:	Re - joice al - ways,	nev - er cease pray - ing,
1.	May our great God	ev - er be with us,
2.	Do not wor - ry,	God is with you.
3.	Come, Lord Je - sus;	we a - wait you.
4.	We ac - cept you	as our sav - ior,

Tenor

Bass

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*Play if necessary.

Ref. —
1.-4. —

to Optional Key Change ⊕

Ref. — ren - der con - stant — thanks — for God's
1. — come per - fect our — spir - its — to a
2. — God will bring you — com - fort — in your
3. — Be our source of — hope, — our Em -
4. — and we wait in — joy — for your

to Optional Key Change ⊕

Last time

rit. al - ways. — *Fine*

Ref. will for you. —
1. life of truth. —
2. time of trial. — Ref. Re - joice al - ways.
3. - man - u - el. —
4. swift re - turn. —

rit. al - ways. —

Last time

rit. — *Fine*

⊕ OPTIONAL KEY CHANGE

Ref. *will for* — you. — Ref. *Re - joi ce al - ways,* —
 1. *life of* — truth. — 2. *Do not wor - ry,* —
 2. *time of* — trial. — 3. *Come, Lord Je - sus;* —
 3. *man - u - el.* — 4. *We ac - cept you* —
 4. *swift re - turn.* —

⊕ OPTIONAL KEY CHANGE

Ref. *pray - ing,* —
 2. *with you.* —
 3. *wait you.* —
 4. *sav - ior,* —

Ref. — *nev - er cease pray - ing,* — *ren - der*
 2. — *God is with you.* — *God will*
 3. — *we a - wait you.* — *Be our*
 4. — *as our sav - ior,* — *and we*

*Play if necessary

(or to Optional Swing Version)

Ref. con - stant — thanks — — — — — for God's will for — you. — —
 2. bring you — com-fort — — — — — in your time of — trial. — —
 3. source of — hope, — — — — — our Em - man - u - el. — —
 4. wait in — joy — — — — — for your swift re - turn. — —

(or to Optional Swing Version)

Last time

rit. al - ways. *Fine*

Ref. Re - joice al - ways.

rit. al - ways.

Last time

rit. *Fine*

*Use cue notes when going to Optional Swing Version.

OPTIONAL SWING VERSION

Cantor:

Ref. *Re - joice* *al - ways,* _____ *nev - er cease*
 2. Do not wor - ry, _____ God ___ is
 3. Come, Lord Je - sus; _____ we ___ a -

Soprano
Alto

Ref. *Re - joice* *al - ways,* _____
 2. Do not wor - ry, _____
 3. Come, Lord Je - sus; _____

Tenor
Bass

Ref. *pray - ing,* _____ *ren - der con - stant* ___ *thanks* _____
 2. with you. _____ God will bring you ___ com - fort ___
 3. - wait you. _____ Be our source of ___ hope, _____

Ref. *nev - er cease pray - ing,* _____ *con - stant* ___ *thanks* _____
 2. God ___ is with ___ you. ___ Bring you ___ com - fort ___
 3. we ___ a - wait ___ you. ___ Source of ___ hope, _____

Ref. _____ for God's will for you. _____
 2. _____ in your time of trial. _____
 3. _____ our Em - man - u - el. _____

The first system of the score consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. Below it are two piano staves (treble and bass clefs) with accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ref. _____ for God's will for you. _____", "2. _____ in your time of trial. _____", and "3. _____ our Em - man - u - el. _____".

Last time
rit. Ref. Re - joice al - ways. _____ *Fine*

Last time
rit. Ref. Re - joice al - ways. _____ *Fine*

Last time
rit. _____ *Fine*

The second system of the score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. Below it are two piano staves (treble and bass clefs) with accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Ref. Re - joice al - ways. _____", "Ref. Re - joice al - ways. _____", and "_____". Each staff has a box above it containing the text "Last time" and "rit." (ritardando). The first two staves end with "Fine".

*Use cue notes when repeating Swing Version.

Rejoice Always

(Guitar/Vocal)

Refrain text based on
1 Thess 5:16-18

Paul Hillebrand

INTRO: *Gospel style* (♩ = ca. 126)

G C/G G Em D G C/G G C/D

REFRAIN & VERSES:

G C/G G Em D G C/G G

Refrain: *Re - joice al - ways, nev - er cease pray - ing,*
 1. *May our great God ev - er be with us,*
 2. *Do not wor - ry, God is with you.*
 3. *Come, Lord Je - sus; we a - wait you.*
 4. *We ac - cept you as our sav - ior,*

G/B Am7 G/B C C/E ⊕

to Optional Key Change

Ref. *ren - der con - stant thanks for God's*
 1. *come per - fect our spir - its to a*
 2. *God will bring you com - fort in your*
 3. *Be our source of hope, our Em -*
 4. *and we wait in joy for your*

F C/E D

Last time

rit. G G7 A7/G Cm/G G *Fine*

Ref. *will for you. Ref. Re - joice al - ways.*
 1. *life of truth.*
 2. *time of trial.*
 3. *man - u - el.*
 4. *swift re - turn.*

OPTIONAL KEY CHANGE

F C/E D/E A D/A A

Ref. *will for you. Ref. Re - joice al - ways,*
 1. *life of truth.* 2. *Do not wor - ry,*
 2. *time of trial.* 3. *Come, Lord Je - sus;*
 3. *man - u - el.* 4. *We ac - cept you*
 4. *swift re - turn.*

F#m E A D/A A A/C#

Ref. _____ nev - er cease pray - ing, _____ ren - der
 2. _____ God _____ is with you. _____ God will
 3. _____ we _____ a - wait you. _____ Be our
 4. _____ as _____ our sav - ior, _____ and we

Bm7 A/C# D D/F# G D/F# E *(D/E)

(or to Optional Swing Version)

Ref. con - stant _____ thanks _____ for God's will for you. _____
 2. bring you _____ com - fort _____ in your time of trial. _____
 3. source of _____ hope, _____ our Em - man - u - el. _____
 4. wait in _____ joy _____ for your swift re - turn. _____

Last time rit. A A7 B7/A Dm/A A Fine

Ref. Re - joice al - ways. _____

OPTIONAL SWING VERSION

(D/E) F#m9 D9 F#m9 B9

Ref. Re - joice al - ways, _____ nev - er cease pray - ing, _____ ren - der
 2. Do not wor - ry, _____ God _____ is with you. _____ God will
 3. Come, Lord Je - sus; _____ we _____ a - wait you. _____ Be our

Bm7 A/C# D D/F# G D/F# E **(D/E)

Ref. con - stant _____ thanks _____ for God's will for you. _____
 2. bring you _____ com - fort _____ in your time of trial. _____
 3. source of _____ hope, _____ our Em - man - u - el. _____

Last time rit. A A7 B7/A Dm/A A Fine

Ref. Re - joice al - ways. _____

*Play this chord when going to the Optional Swing Version.
 **Play this chord when repeating the Swing Version.

Rejoice Always

(Hymn Version)

Refrain text based on
1 Thess 5:16-18

Paul Hillebrand

REFRAIN & VERSES: (♩ = ca. 104)

Soprano/Cantor/Melody

Alto

Refrain: *Re - joi - ce al - ways, nev - er cease pray*

1. *May our great God ev - er be with*

2. *Do not wor - ry, God is with*

3. *Come, Lord Je - sus; we a - wait*

4. *We ac - cept you as our sav*

Tenor

Bass

Ref. *pray - ing,* _____
1. *with us,* _____
2. *with you.* _____
3. *wait you.* _____
4. *sav - ior,* _____

Ref. _____
1.-4. _____

Ref. *- ing, ren - der con - stant thanks for God's*

1. *us, come per - fect our spir - its to a*

2. *you. God will bring you com - fort in your*

3. *you. Be our source of hope, our Em -*

4. *- ior, and we wait in joy for your*

Last time
rit.

Ref. *will for you.*

1. *life of truth.*

2. *time of trial. Ref. Re - joi - ce al - ways.*

3. *- man - u - el.*

4. *swift re - turn.*

rit. **Fine**

Performance Notes

In composing *Rejoice Always*, I was trying to create something that could be used at all the liturgies in our parish—family liturgies, high church liturgies, teen liturgies, hymn-tune-only liturgies. This would allow us, when we came together for parish celebrations, to use the same basic song with only slight differences in rhythm. We usually use the Hymn version for procession and the Gospel style version as a closing song.

The text for the Refrain, taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, has always been one of my favorites and one that I’ve tried to memorize and call to mind often in my everyday trials and joys. Rejoicing, praying unceasingly, and constantly thanking our God for everything can bring a great deal of strength and peace.

For variety, since the Verse melody is the same as the Refrain melody, you might try having the choir sing “oo” on the SATB parts while a cantor sings the Verse. Improvisation by the cantor is encouraged! A possible closing song form would be: starting in Hymn style, do REF/VS1; then go to the Gospel style in G major and do INTRO, REF/VS2, REF/VS3; do the key change to A major for REF/VS4; then into the Swing version for REF/VS2, REF/VS3, REF/Final Ending. As always, adapt the structure to your situation. Special thanks to Tom Booth and Tim Smith from St. Timothy Church in Mesa, Arizona, for the “swing” progression.

—P.V.H.

Guitar Chord Charts

The following table lists the guitar chord charts shown in the image, including their names and fretboard diagrams.

Chord Name	Fretboard Diagram
A/C#	x 0 0 0 0 0
A7/G	0 0 0 0 0 0
B7/A	x 0 0 0 0 0
B9	x 0 0 0 0 0
Bm7	0 0 0 0 0 0
C/D	xx00 0
C/D	xx0 0 0 0 0
C/E	0 0 0 0 0 0
C/G	0 0 0 0 0 0
Cm/G	0 0 0 0 0 0
C#/E#	0 0 0 0 0 0
C#/E#	xx 0 0 0 0 0
D9	x 0 0 0 0 0
D9	x 0 0 0 0 0
D/E	0 0 0 0 0 0
D/F#	0 0 0 0 0 0
D/A	x 0 0 0 0 0
Dm/A	x 0 0 0 0 0
F#m9	0 0 0 0 0 0
G/B	x 0 0 0 0 0
G/B	x 0 0 0 0 0

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Paul Hillebrand

Refrain text based on
1 Thess 5:16-18

Refrain: *Re - joice* al - ways, nev - er cease pray - ing,
 1. May our great God ev - er be with us,
 2. Do not wor - ry, God is with you.
 3. Come, Lord Je - sus; we a - wait you.
 4. We ac - cept you as our sav - ior,

Ref. *ren - der* con - stant thanks for God's will for you.
 1. come per - fect our spir - its to a life of truth.
 2. God will bring you com - fort in your time of trial.
 3. Be our source of hope, our Em - man - u - el.
 4. and we wait in joy for your swift re - turn.

Last time

Ref. *Re - joice* al - ways. *Fine*

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REJOICE ALWAYS (Hymn Version)

Paul Hillebrand

Refrain text based on
1 Thess 5:16-18

Refrain: *Re - joice* al - ways, nev - er cease pray - ing,
 1. May our great God ev - er be with us,
 2. Do not wor - ry, God is with you.
 3. Come, Lord Je - sus; we a - wait you.
 4. We ac - cept you as our sav - ior,

Ref. *ren - der* con - stant thanks for God's will for you.
 1. come per - fect our spir - its to a life of truth.
 2. God will bring you com - fort in your time of trial.
 3. Be our source of hope, our Em - man - u - el.
 4. and we wait in joy for your swift re - turn.

Last time

Ref. *Re - joice* al - ways. *Fine*

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