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Compassion Walks the City Street
Two-part Choir, Keyboard, Guitar,
Assembly (with optional SATB)

Justin Wedgewood/Genevieve Glen, OSB



CHORAL SERIES

Compassion Walks the City Street

Music by
Justin Wedgewood

Text by
Genevieve Glen, OSB

Preview



Compassion Walks the City Street

Genevieve Glen, OSB

Justin Wedgewood

Arr. by Scott Soper

INTRO (♩ = 72-76)

Keyboard

Chords: Ebadd9, Bb/D, Abmaj7

VERSE 1

Unison (or Solo)

1. Com-pas-sion walks the cit-y street And lis-tens for un-cer-tain

Chords: Fsus4, Ebadd9, Bb/D, Eb

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Performance Suggestions:

Option One

- Verse 1: unison choir (or solo)
- Verse 2: unison sopranos and altos
- Verse 3: tenors and basses sing melody, sopranos and altos sing harmony
- Verse 4: SATB *a cappella*
- Verse 5: sopranos (and/or tenors) sing harmony

Option Two

- Verse 1: unison choir (or solo)
- Verse 2: unison choir
- Verse 3: unison sopranos and altos
- Verse 4: tenors and basses sing melody, sopranos and altos sing harmony
- Verse 5: sopranos (and/or tenors) sing harmony

1. feet That hunt a home they can-not find Be-cause the heart that leads is

Fsus4 F Gm Ebadd9 Bb/D

1. blind. Com-pas-sion holds a stead - y light To show the way through chill of

Fsus4 F Gm Ebadd9 Eb/G

1. night And takes the home - less by the hand To guide them to a warm-er

F/A Gm Ebadd9 Fsus4 F

1. land.

Bb Ebadd9 Gm Fsus4

VERSES 2, 3 (4)

Melody (Tenor/Bass or Unison choir)

2. Com-pas-sion walks the pris-on halls In search of those af-flic-tion
3. Com-pas-sion walks the emp-ty waste Where dust and ash are all they
*4. Com-pas-sion walks where life is hard, Where eyes are blank and fac-es

Harmony (Soprano/Alto)

F Ebadd9 Bb/D Eb

2. walls In hope-less-ness be-yond de-spair Be-cause no voice speaks sol-ace
3. taste Who lose their way in bar-ren-ness And eat the bread of bit-ter-
4. marred By pain too great to un-der-stand, And shoul-ders those too weak to

Fsus4 F Gm Ebadd9 Bb/D

2. there. Com-pas-sion breaks the bars and locks To forge a path through all that
3. ness. Com-pas-sion sets a ta-ble there With bread and wine both rich and
4. stand. Com-pas-sion is the Shep-herd's name: Who from the halls of heav-en

Fsus4 F Gm Ebadd9 Eb/G

*An optional *a cappella* version of Verse 4 can be found on page 6.

2. blocks The way to ev - 'ry lone - ly cell, Where an - guish pines in si - lent
 3. rare For all who faint in hun - ger's hold, And car - ries them to plen - ty's
 4. came To trav - el land - scapes bare and bleak For those that on - ly love would

*1, 2 to Verses 3, 4
 2. hell.
 3. fold.
 4. seek.

*3 to Opt. Verse 4 or Verse 5
 Gm F/A Ab Gsus4 G

*If Optional Verse 4 is to be sung, use ending 3 after Verse 3.

OPTIONAL VERSE 4: *a cappella*

S/A

4. Com - pas - sion walks where life is hard, Where eyes are blank and fac - es marred

T/B

div.

4. By pain too great to un - der - stand, And shoul - ders those too weak to stand.

div.

4. Com - pas - sion is the Shep - herd's name: Who from the halls of heav - en came

4. To trav - el land - scapes bare and bleak For those that on - ly love would

4. seek.

Fadd9 C/E Bbmaj7 Fmaj7 Gsus4

VERSE 5

Harmony (Soprano or Tenor)

5. Com - pas - sion does not tire or sleep But walks wher - ev - er suf - f'ers

Melody

C/E Fadd9 C/E F

5. weep Through ag - es past and still to come, Un - til the world is gath - ered

Gsus4 G Am Fadd9 C/E

5. home To rest at last where Mer - cy reigns And heals all ills and stills all

Gsus4 G Am Fadd9 F/A

5. pains. And there Com - pas - sion's walk will cease, Where God is all, and all is

G/B Am Fadd9 Gsus4 G

rall. al fine
5. peace.

rall. al fine

Am C/G F Gsus4 G C

rall. al fine

Textwriter Notes

This hymn was inspired in general by Psalm 107, which tells the story of God's redeeming love through a succession of small narrative images: the homecoming of the exiles; the desert journey to the city of God, Jerusalem; the liberation of prisoners; the healing of the sick; the stilling of the storm at sea; the transformation of desert into fruitful land; and the just end to which the needy and the wicked come. The text attempts to borrow and translate some of those images into images of desolation and restoration drawn from contemporary experience: the homecoming of the homeless in spirit (verse 1); the liberation of prisoners, especially those imprisoned in the loneliness of abandonment or addiction (verse 2); the deliverance of those who live in the soul-deserts of bitterness, emptiness and meaninglessness (verse 3); and the comforting of all lost in suffering (verses 4–5). The gospels borrow some of the images from Psalm 107, notably the stilling of the storm, the liberation of captives, the feeding of the hungry in the desert, and the restoration of justice for the needy, to describe the redeeming work of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The Shepherd has become a central figure in the Christian imagination, but with few roots now in actual experience. The text takes this image and distills from it a central characteristic of Christ as Good Shepherd: compassion, which is recognizable in any setting, rural, urban or suburban.

—Genevieve Glen, OSB

Preview

Compassion Walks the City Street

(Guitar/Vocal)

Genevieve Glen, OSB

Justin Wedgewood

INTRO (♩ = 72-76)

Capo 3: (Cadd9) (G/B) (Fmaj7) (Dsus4)
 Ebadd9 Bb/D Abmaj7 Fsus4

(Pno)

VERSES 1-3 (4)

(Cadd9) (G/B) (C)
 Ebadd9 Bb/D Eb

1. Com-pas-sion walks the cit-y street And lis-tens for un-cer-tain
 2. Com-pas-sion walks the pris-on halls In search of those af-flic-tion
 3. Com-pas-sion walks the emp-ty waste Where dust and ash are all they
 4. Com-pas-sion walks where life is hard, Where eyes are blank and fac-es

(Dsus4) (D) (Em) (Cadd9) (G/B)
 Fsus4 F Gm Ebadd9 Bb/D

1. feet___ That hunt a home they can-not find Be-cause the heart that leads is
 2. walls___ In hope-less-ness be-yond de-spair Be-cause no voice speaks sol-ace
 3. taste___ Who lose their way in bar-ren-ness And eat the bread of bit-ter-
 4. marred___ By pain too great to un-der-stand, And shoul-ders those too weak to

(Dsus4) (D) (Em) (Cadd9) (C/E)
 Fsus4 F Gm Ebadd9 Eb/G

1. blind. ___ Com-pas-sion holds a stead-y light To show the way through chill of
 2. there. ___ Com-pas-sion breaks the bars and locks To forge a path through all that
 3. ness. ___ Com-pas-sion sets a ta-ble there With bread and wine both rich and
 4. stand. ___ Com-pas-sion is the Shep-herd's name: Who from the halls of heav-en

(D/F#) (Em) (Cadd9)
 F/A Gm Ebadd9

1. night And takes the home-less by the hand To guide them
 2. blocks The way to ev-'ry lone-ly cell, Where an-guish
 3. rare For all who faint in hun-ger's hold, And car-ries
 4. came To trav-el land-scapes bare and bleak For those that

(Dsus4) (D) (G) (Cadd9) *1-3
 Fsus4 F Bb Ebadd9 (Em) (Dsus4) (D)
 Gm Fsus4 F

1. to a warm-er land.
 2. pines in si-lent hell.
 3. them to plen-ty's fold.
 4. on-ly love would seek.

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*Take ending 4 after verse 3 if using optional a cappella arrangement of Verse 4, found on page 6.

*4 (Em) (D/F#) (F) (Esus4) to Opt. Verse 4
 Gm F/A Ab Gsus4 (E) or Verse 5
 G

(OPTIONAL VERSE 4: Guitar tacet)

VERSE 5

(A/C#) (Dadd9) (A/C#) (D)
 C/E Fadd9 C/E F

4. Com - pas - sion walks where life is hard, Where eyes are blank and fac - es
 5. Com - pas - sion does not tire or sleep But walks wher - ev - er suf - f'ers

(Esus4) (E) (F#m) (Dadd9) (A/C#)
 Gsus4 G Am Fadd9 C/E

4. marred — By pain too great to un - der - stand, And shoul - ders those too weak to
 5. weep — Through ag - es past and still to come, Un - til the world is gath - ered

(Esus4) (E) (F#m) (Dadd9) (D/F#)
 Gsus4 G Am Fadd9 F/A

4. stand. — Com - pas - sion is the Shep - herd's name: Who from the halls of heav - en
 5. home — To rest at last where Mer - cy reigns And heals all ills and stills all

(E/G#) (F#m) (Dadd9) (Esus4) (E)
 G/B Am Fadd9 Gsus4 G

4. came To trav - el land - scapes bare and bleak For those that on - ly love would
 5. pains. And there Com - pas - sion's walk will cease, Where God is all, and all is

(Verse 4)
 [A] (Dadd9) (A/C#) (Gmaj7) (Dmaj7) (Esus4)
 [C] Fadd9 C/E Bbmaj7 Fmaj7 Gsus4 to Vs. 5
 (resume playing)

4. seek.

Final
 (F#m) (A/E) (D) (Esus4) (E) (A)
 Am C/G F Gsus4 G C
rall. al fine

5. peace.

COMPASSION WALKS THE CITY STREET
Justin Wedgewood

the cit - y street
the pris - on halls
the emp - ty waste
where life is hard,
not tire or sleep

And lis - tens
In search of
Where dust and
Where eyes are
But walks wher -

1. Com - pas - sion walks
2. Com - pas - sion walks
3. Com - pas - sion walks
4. Com - pas - sion walks
5. Com - pas - sion does

1. for un - cer - tain feet
2. those af - flic - tion walls
3. ash are all they taste
4. blank and fac - es marred
5. ev - er suf - frers weep

That hunt a home
In hope - less - ness
Who lose their way
By pain too great
Through ag - es past
and still to

they can - not
be - yond de -
in bar - ren -
to un - der -
and still to

1. find Be - cause the heart
2. spair Be - cause no voice
3. ness And eat the bread
4. stand, And shoul - ders those
5. come, Un - til the world

that leads is blind.
speaks sol - ace there.
of bit - ter - ness.
too weak to stand.
is gath - ered home To rest at

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COMPASSION WALKS THE CITY STREET (cont.)

1. holds a stead - y light
2. breaks the bars and locks
3. sets a ta - ble there
4. is the Shep - herd's name:
5. last where Mer - cy reigns

To show the way through chill
To forge a path through all that
With bread and wine both rich and
Who from the halls of heav - en
And heals all ills and stills all

1. night And takes the home - less
2. blocks The way to ev - 'ry lone - ly cell,
3. rare For all who faint in hun - ger's hold,
4. came To trav - el land - scapes bare and bleak
5. pains. And there Com - pas - sion's walk will cease,

To guide them
Where an - guish
And car - ries
For those that
Where God is

1. to a warm - er land.
2. pines in si - lent hell.
3. them to plen - ty's fold.
4. on - ly love would seek.
5. all, and all is peace.

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