

JUST AS I AM, LORD

for S.A.B. voices, accompanied*

Words by
DON BESIG and NANCY PRICE (ASCAP)

Music by
DON BESIG (ASCAP)

Moderately (♩ = ca. 80-88)

ACCOMP. *mp*

10 SOPRANO and ALTO Unison 13 *mp*

Through all the tri - als which

15

life ends my way, through all the troub-les I face each

*Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 4280, and two-part mixed voices, No. 4282.

20 S. 21

A.
day;

B. *mp*

shad-ows and clouds may bring doubt and fear, but

25 29

Some-times the

Lord, I know You are near.

30

dark-ness seems emp - ty and cold, some-times I search for a

35

37

hand — to hold. — Lost and un - cer - tain of what — to

40

*unis.**mf*

do, I find my cour - age in You. — * Just —

mf

45

as am, — with - out — one plea, for You, — O

50 53

Lord, will com - fort me. Your love a - lone will

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in G major with a key signature of one flat (F major). It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are "Lord, will com - fort me. Your love a - lone will". A box containing the number "53" is positioned above the vocal line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in G major with a key signature of one flat, starting with a bass clef and a common time signature.

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) in G major with a key signature of one flat. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble.

55 *mf*

set me free! O Lamb of God, I come,

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in G major with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are "set me free! O Lamb of God, I come,". A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed above the vocal line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in G major with a key signature of one flat, starting with a bass clef and a common time signature.

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) in G major with a key signature of one flat. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble.

60 61 *mp*

I come.

Detailed description: This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in G major with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are "I come.". A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed above the vocal line. A box containing the number "61" is positioned above the vocal line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in G major with a key signature of one flat, starting with a bass clef and a common time signature.

Detailed description: This system shows the piano accompaniment for the third system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) in G major with a key signature of one flat. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble.

a tempo
mf unis.

65

molto rit.

I am not

a tempo

molto rit.

mf

70

wor - thy but still You for - give, teach - ing me pa - tient - ly

mp

I am not wor - thy, but You will teach me

75

77

how _ to live. _ Hum - ble and thank - ful, I come _ to

mf

80

cresc.

f unis.

You _ with love so faith - ful and true. _ Just _

cresc.

f

cresc.

f

85

as I am, _ with - out _ one plea, for You, _ O

90

93

Lord, _ will com - fort me. Your _ love a - lone _ will

95

set me free! — O Lamb of God, — I come, —

100

rit. e dim. al fine

I — come. —

rit. e dim. al fine

rit. e dim. al fine

The musical score is for a hymn in G minor, 3/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins at measure 95 with the lyrics 'set me free! — O Lamb of God, — I come, —'. The piano accompaniment provides a steady eighth-note pulse. The score concludes at measure 100 with the instruction 'rit. e dim. al fine'.

Just As I Am, Lord is a Lenten anthem that may be appropriate throughout the general church year. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Exodus 3: 1–15, Psalm 103, Luke 13: 1–9, and 1 Corinthians 10: 1–12. One basic homiletical theme is God the Comforter and Sustainer of all humankind.

This gently flowing anthem should be sung with a basic feeling of one beat per measure. The singers should listen for the fairly constant eighth notes in the accompaniment to articulate the forward motion of each phrase. In rehearsal, ask the singers to sing their parts on a neutral syllable such as “noo,” pulsing every eighth precisely with the accompaniment, to enhance ensemble precision. Shade dynamically the natural rise and fall of the phrases while sensitively inflecting the text.

Don Besig is Director of Music at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, New York. He has over thirty years of experience teaching vocal music in the public schools of western New York and has over two hundred seventy published compositions and arrangements. **Nancy Price** holds B.M. and M.M. degrees in music from Ithaca College and is a former student of Besig’s. Both Besig and Price have received several ASCAP Special Awards.