

# You Have Laid Down Your Precepts (Psalm 119)

Psalm 119:10-23

Stephen Dean

REFRAIN: (♩ = ca. 48) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

**Soprano Alto**

You have laid down your pre-cepts — to be faith-ful - ly kept. —

**Baritone**

**Keyboard**

Chords: G<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup>    A<sup>b</sup>7    Fm7    D<sup>b</sup>/F    C<sup>o</sup>7/E<sup>b</sup>    Fm

— May my foot-steps be firm to o - bey your com-mands.    mand. —

1    2-Final to Verses (Fine)  
D.C.

Chords: G<sup>o</sup>/B<sup>b</sup>    D<sup>b</sup>/F    Fm7    E<sup>b</sup>m7/G<sup>b</sup>    G<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup>    D.C.    G<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup>    A<sup>b</sup>

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Play Refrain as an Intro.

YOU HAVE LAID DOWN YOUR PRECEPTS (PSALM 119) (Keyboard/Choral), cont. (2)

VERSES: *Freely*

**Cantor**

1. I have sought you with all my heart; let me not stray from your com - mands.  
 2. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes.  
 3. I rejoiced to do your will as though all riches were mine.  
 4. I take delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.  
 5. Open my eyes that I may see the wonders of your law.  
 6. My soul is ever con - sumed as I long for your de - crees.  
 7. Relieve me from scorn and con - tempt for I do your will.  
 8. Glory be to the Father and to the Son,

*D $\flat$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$ m/G $\flat$  C $\flat$ 7/E $\flat$*

1. I treasure your promise in my heart  
 2. With my tongue I have re - counted  
 3. I will ponder all your precepts  
 4. Bless your servant and I shall live  
 5. I am a pilgrim on the earth;  
 6. You threaten the proud, the ac - cursed,  
 7. Though the powerful sit plotting a - gainst me  
 8. and to the Ho - ly Spirit

*B $\flat$ m7 Fm7*

*a tempo* **D.C.**

1. lest I sin a - gainst you.  
 2. the decrees of your lips.  
 3. and consid - er your paths.  
 4. and o - bey your word.  
 5. show me your com - mands.  
 6. who turn from your com - mands.  
 7. I ponder on your stat - utes.  
 8. both now and for ev - er.

*E $\flat$ m7 E $\flat$ m/G $\flat$  C $\flat$  D.C.*

*a tempo*

# You Have Laid Down Your Precepts (Psalm 119)

(Guitar/Vocal)

Psalm 119:10-23

Stephen Dean

**REFRAIN:** (♩. = ca. 48) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

Capo 4: (D/E) (E7) (C#m7) (A/C#) (G#°7/B) (C#m)  
G♭/A♭ A♭7 Fm7 D♭/F C°7/E♭ Fm

You have laid down your pre - cepts \_\_\_ to be faith - ful - ly kept. \_\_\_

(D#°/F#) (A/C#) (C#m7) (Bm7/D) 1 2-Final to Verses  
G°/B♭ D♭/F Fm7 E♭m7/G♭ (D/E) (D/E) (E)  
G♭/A♭ D.C. G♭/A♭ A♭ (Fine)

\_\_\_ May my foot-steps be firm to o - bey your com - mands. mands. \_\_\_

**VERSES:** *Freely*

(A) (F#) (Bm/D) (G#°7/B)  
D♭ B♭ E♭m7/G♭ C°7/E♭  
Cantor

1. I have sought you with all my heart; let me not stray from your com - mands.
2. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes.
3. I rejoiced to do your will as though all riches were mine.
4. I take delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.
5. Open my eyes that I may see the wonders of your law.
6. My soul is ever con - sumed as I long for your de - crees.
7. Relieve me from scorn and con - tempt for I do your will.
8. Glory be to the Father and to the Son,

(F#m7) (C#m7)  
B♭m7 Fm7

1. I treasure your promise in my heart
2. With my tongue I have re - counted
3. I will ponder all your precepts
4. Bless your servant and I shall live
5. I am a pilgrim on the earth;
6. You threaten the proud, the ac - cursed,
7. Though the powerful sit plotting a - gainst me
8. and to the Ho - ly Spirit

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Play Refrain as an Intro.

YOU HAVE LAID DOWN YOUR PRECEPTS (PSALM 119) (Guitar/Vocal), cont. (2)

(Bm7) Ebm7	(Bm/D) Ebm/Gb	(G) Cb	<i>a tempo</i>	<i>D.C.</i>
1. lest I	sin	a	-	gainst you.
2. the decrees	of	your		lips. _____
3. and	consid - er	your		paths. _____
4. and	o - bey	your		word. _____
5. show me	your	com	-	mands. _____
6. who turn from	your	com	-	mands. _____
7. I ponder	on	your		stat - utes.
8. both now	and	for		ev - er.

## Composer Notes

### You Have Laid Down Your Precepts (Psalm 119)

This piece, along with “A Lamp for My Steps (Psalm 119),” was written to be sung at simple celebrations of Midday Prayer (Prayer during the Day), which I use at parish music workshops to finish the morning session. The verses provided are only a sample of the 176 verses of Psalm 119, which features prominently in Midday Prayer. Other verses can be used, either from Psalm 119 or another psalm, and could be either sung or spoken. The refrain can be sung on its own at meditative prayer services. On the recording, the two Psalm 119 titles have been combined with linking instrumental passages added to provide a festive setting.

—Stephen Dean

# You Have Laid Down Your Precepts (Psalm 119)

SOLO INSTRUMENT

Stephen Dean

REFRAIN: (♩. = ca. 48) Cantor

Musical notation for the Refrain (Cantor part). It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 9/8 time. The first staff contains the first two measures, and the second staff contains the next two measures. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes with rests.

REFRAIN: All

Musical notation for the Refrain (All part). It consists of one staff of music in G major and 9/8 time. The music starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note, then continues with eighth and quarter notes. The word "You have" is written below the first two notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

VERSES 1-8: *Freely*

Musical notation for Verses 1-8. It consists of one staff of music in G major and 9/8 time. The staff is mostly empty, with a thick black bar indicating a long rest. The piece ends with a double bar line, the tempo marking "a tempo", and the instruction "D.S." (Da Capo).

REFRAIN (Alternative Part)

Musical notation for the Refrain (Alternative Part). It consists of one staff of music in G major and 9/8 time. The music starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note, then continues with eighth and quarter notes. The word "You have" is written below the first two notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and the word "(Fine)".

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Play first Refrain as an Intro.

# You Have Laid Down Your Precepts (Psalm 119)

CLARINET in B $\flat$

Stephen Dean

REFRAIN: (♩ = ca. 48) Cantor

REFRAIN: All

You have

*Fine*

VERSES 1-8: *Freely*

REFRAIN (Alternative Part)

You have

*(Fine)*

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Play first Refrain as an Intro.

# Assembly Edition

## YOU HAVE LAID DOWN YOUR PRECEPTS (PSALM 119)

Stephen Dean

Refrain: 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a 9/8 time signature. It contains a melodic line with a quarter rest followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, and a half note D5. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, and a half note D4. The lyrics are: 'You have laid down your pre-cepts to be faith-ful-ly kept. May my foot-steps be firm to o-bey your com-mands.'

### Verses

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. I have sought you with all my heart;<br>let me not stray from your commands.<br>I treasure your promise in my heart<br>lest I sin against you. | 5. Open my eyes that I may see<br>the wonders of your law.<br>I am a pilgrim on the earth;<br>show me your commands.                      |
| 2. Blessed are you, O Lord;<br>teach me your statutes.<br>With my tongue I have recounted<br>the decrees of your lips.                            | 6. My soul is ever consumed<br>as I long for your decrees.<br>You threaten the proud, the accursed,<br>who turn from your commands.       |
| 3. I rejoiced to do your will<br>as though all riches were mine.<br>I will ponder all your precepts<br>and consider your paths.                   | 7. Relieve me from scorn and contempt<br>for I do your will.<br>Though the powerful sit plotting against me<br>I ponder on your statutes. |
| 4. I take delight in your statutes;<br>I will not forget your word.<br>Bless your servant and I shall live<br>and obey your word.                 | 8. Glory be to the Father<br>and to the Son,<br>and to the Holy Spirit<br>both now and for ever.  |

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