

Can We Love?

Tom Booth
Choral arrangement by Rick Modlin

INTRO (♩ = ca. 156)

Am C G Dm7 Am C G

The piano introduction consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) in 6/8 time. The treble staff features chords (Am, C, G, Dm7, Am, C, G) with a simple melody. The bass staff provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes.

REFRAIN

*(Counter-melody)

Can we love? _____ Can we

Soprano

Alto

Can we love? _____ Can we lay _____ down our lives? _____ Can we wear _____

Tenor

Bass

Am C G Dm7 Am

The refrain section includes vocal parts for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, along with a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Can we love? _____ Can we lay _____ down our lives? _____ Can we wear _____". The piano accompaniment features chords (Am, C, G, Dm7, Am) and a melody in the treble staff.

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*Performance suggestion: Altos sing this counter-melody for the last one of the two refrains instead of the regular Alto line. Alternatively, it may be sung by a high Tenor voice.

to Coda ⊕

wear his crown of thorns? Can we drink — his cup?

his crown of thorns? Can we drink — the cup that he drinks? —

C G Am C G Dm7 to Coda ⊕

1, 2 to Verses 1, 2 3 *D.S. al Coda*

We must lay down our lives! lives!

1, 2 to Verses 1, 2 3 *D.S. al Coda*

We must lay down our lives! 1. It's lives!
2. It's

F E7 1, 2 to Verses 1, 2 3 *D.S. al Coda*
Am add9 G Am add9

VERSES 1, 2

S/A unis.

(1. It's) more than rais - ing our hands, it's more than sing - ing this
 (2. It's) more than shout - ing God's name, it's more than sing - ing his

T F G C F G

1. song. It's say - ing "yes" to the Giv - er of
 2. praise. It's bring - ing for - give - ness to in - ju - ry's

Am F E7 Am G

1. life, it's right - ing the ways that are wrong!
 2. wound, and hope to those im - pris - oned by shame.

D Dm7 E7 Eaug

1 *D.S.* 2 **INTERLUDE**

E7 E7 Eaug E7 Am G Dm7

Am G Am C G Dm7

F E7 Am Am/G to Verse 3

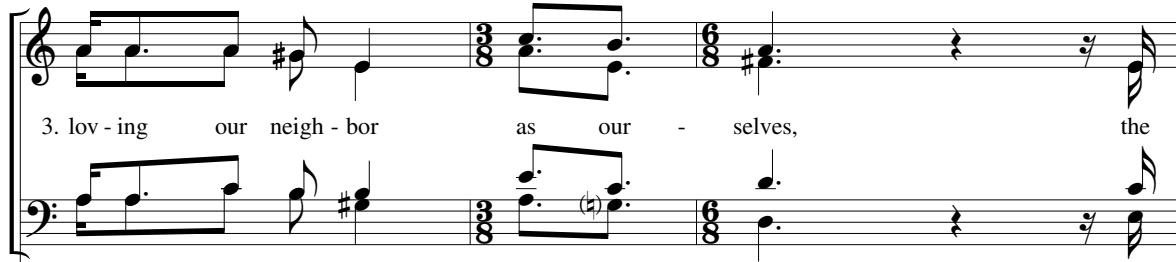
VERSE 3

3. Lov - ing the Lord — our God with all our heart, mind and soul,

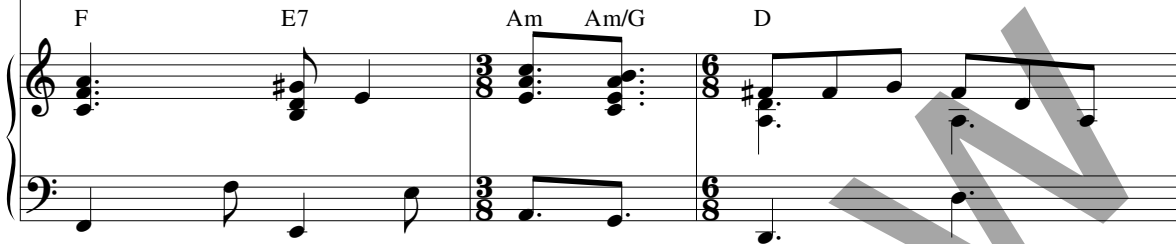
unis.

F G C F G Am

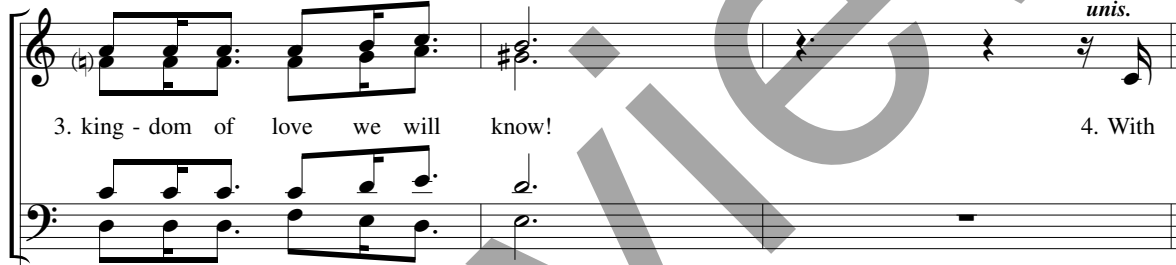
3. lov - ing our neigh - bor as our - selves, the



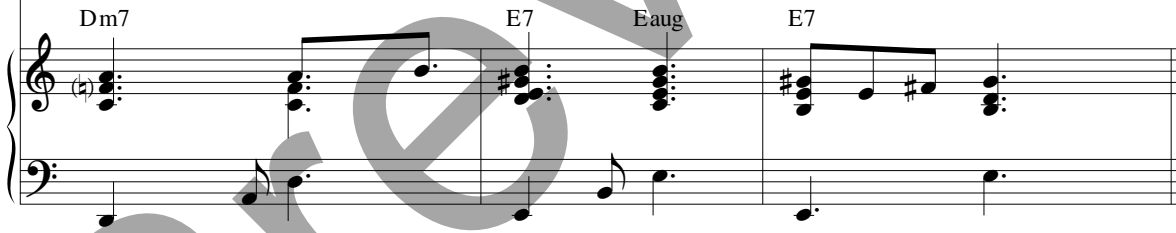
F E7 Am Am/G D



3. king - dom of love we will know! *unis.* 4. With



Dm7 E7 Eaug E7

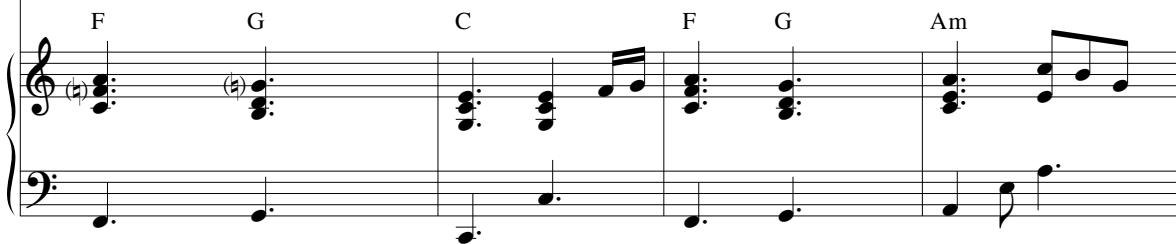


VERSE 4

4. feet se - cure — on the ground — and hearts hum - bled by love we



F G C F G Am



4. stand be - fore God's a - noint - ed one and

F E7 Am G D

4. ask the ques - tion, and ask the ques - tion: *D.S.*

Dm9 E7 Eaug E7 *D.S.*

⊕ CODA

We must lay down, we must lay down, we must lay down our

F E7 F E7 F E7

The image shows a musical score for the song "Can We Love?". It consists of three staves. The top two staves are for the vocal line, with the lyrics "lives!" written below the first staff. The bottom staff is for the piano accompaniment, featuring a series of chords: Am add9, C, G, Dm7, F, E7, and Am. The piano part includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A large, semi-transparent "Preview" watermark is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

Composer Notes

My co-producer and friend, Jeff Thomas, calls *Can We Love?* my 'worship protest song.' I find that to be funny, and in some ways, true. With *Can We Love?* I am challenging myself, and others, to go beyond "raising our hands" and "shouting God's name" to live a life of love and service to God, and others. Praise is supposed to lead to worship, and worship is about surrender. A surrendered life is about giving oneself completely to God, and to the service of others as well. This is the idea behind *Can We Love?* Musically, the song itself is quite simple. Keep the medium tempo steady for the gathered assembly to sing along as you strum the *G/B* time-signature into oblivion! I have "performed" this song with a choir, and with a contemporary music ensemble as well. Both approaches seem to work just fine. A few parishes have already used *Can We Love?* as a Lenten theme song or for a parish Reconciliation service.

—Tom Booth

Preview

Can We Love?

(Guitar/Vocal)

Tom Booth

INTRO (♩ = ca. 156)

Am C G Dm7 Am C G //

REFRAIN

Am C G Dm7 Am

Can we love? Can we lay down our lives? Can we wear

C G Am C G Dm7 to Coda

his crown of thorns? Can we drink the cup that he drinks?

F E7 1, 2 Amadd9 G 3 Amadd9 D.S. al Coda

We must lay down our lives! 1. It's lives!
2. It's

VERSES 1, 2

F G C F G Am

1. more than rais-ing our hands, it's more than sing-ing this song. It's
2. more than shout-ing God's name, it's more than sing-ing his praise. It's

F E7 Am G D Dm7

1. say - ing "yes" to the Giv - er of life, it's right - ing the
2. bring - ing for - give - ness to in - ju - ry's wound, and hope to those im -

E7 Eaug 1 E7 D.S. 2 E7 Eaug E7 INTERLUDE Am G Dm7 Am

1. ways that are wrong! (Kbd)
2. pris-oned by shame.

G Am C G Dm7 F E7 Am Am/G

VERSE 3

F G C F G

3. Lov - ing the Lord ___ our God with all our heart, mind and

Am F E7 Am Am/G D

3. soul, lov - ing our neigh - bor as our - selves, the

Dm7 E7 Eaug E7

3. king - dom of love we will know! _____ 4. With

VERSE 4

F G C F G

4. feet se - cure ___ on the ground ___ and hearts hum - bled by

Am F E7 Am G D

4. love we stand be - fore God's a - noint - ed one and

Dm9 E7 Eaug E7 // D.S.

4. ask the ques - tion, and ask _____ the ques - tion: ___

CODA

F E7 F E7 F E7

We must lay down, we must lay down, we must lay down our

Amadd9 C G Dm7 F E7 Am

lives! _____

CAN WE LOVE?

Tom Booth

Refrain

Can we love? Can we lay down our lives? Can we wear his crown of thorns? Can we drink the cup that he drinks? We must lay down our lives!

Final

We must lay down, we must lay down, we must lay down our lives!

Verses 1, 2

1. It's more than rais - ing our hands, it's more than sing - ing this
 2. It's more than shout - ing God's name, it's more than sing - ing his

1. song. It's say - ing "yes" to the Giv - er of life,
 2. praise. It's bring - ing for - give - ness to in - ju - ry's wound,

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CAN WE LOVE? (cont.)

1. it's right - ing the ways that are wrong!
 2. and hope to those im - pris - oned by shame.

Verse 3

3. Lov - ing the Lord our God with
 3. all our heart, mind and soul, lov - ing our neigh - bor as our -
 3. selves, the king - dom of love we will know!

Verse 4

4. With feet se - cure on the ground and
 4. hearts hum - bled by love we stand be - fore God's a -
 4. noint - ed one and ask the ques - tion,
 4. and ask the ques - tion:

1 to Refrain

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