

One More Step

Joyce Poley

arr. Elizabeth Alexander

SATB and piano



Elizabeth Alexander

Seafarer Press

One More Step

Words and music by Joyce Poley, arr. Elizabeth Alexander

One more step,
We will take one more step,
Till there is peace for us and everyone,
We'll take one more step.

One more word,
We will say one more word,
Till every word is heard by everyone,
We'll say one more word.

One more prayer,
We will say one more prayer,
Till every prayer is shared by everyone,
We'll say one more prayer.

One more song,
We will sing one more song,
Till every song is sung by everyone,
We'll sing one more song.

One more seed,
We will sow one more seed,
Till there's a seed of hope in everyone,
We'll sow one more seed.

One more home,
We will build one more home,
Till there's a place for every one of us,
We'll build one more home.

One more bridge,
We will cross one more bridge,
Till we have found the peace we're longing for,
We'll cross one more bridge.

Day by day,
We will live day by day,
And when we stumble we'll begin again,
And take one more step.

Original lyrics (verses 1-4) © 1986 Joyce Poley

Lyrics written especially for this choral arrangement (verses 4-8) © 2016 Joyce Poley



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Notes by Elizabeth Alexander: Canadian songwriter Joyce Poley wrote *One More Step* in 1986 for a peace rally in Vancouver. Since then, her song of faith, commitment and action has been sung at countless rallies, churches and gatherings of conscience.

My choral arrangement of Joyce's song was commissioned to celebrate the merger of River House and Lifebridge, two service organizations that addressed homelessness in northeastern Massachusetts. Joyce generously wrote four new verses for the arrangement, giving me a few more delicious images to play with: seeds, homes, bridges, and (inevitably!) stumbles. Each verse tells a different story, creating a multilayered, shared sense of community and commitment.

Commissioned by First Baptist Church of Beverly, MA
in celebration of the merger of River House (Beverly) and Lifebridge (Salem)

One More Step

for SATB and piano

Words and Music by Joyce Poley
Arrangement by Elizabeth Alexander

Open-hearted (♩ = 50-54)

E/B B⁷ E/B A/B E/B D/B A/B E/B B⁷ B E/B

7 *p* One more step, we will take one more step, till there is

p One more step, we will take one more step, till there is

B⁹(sus4) E B/E E A E/A B

“One More Step” © 1986 by Joyce Poley. Additional verses © 2016 by Joyce Poley.
Arrangement © 2017 by Elizabeth Alexander, revised 2025.

13

S
peace for us and ev - 'ry - one_ we'll_ take one more step.

A
peace for us and ev' - ry - one_ we'll_ take one more step.

T

B

E A/C# E/B B7

A

17

S
One more word, we will_ say one more word, till ev - 'ry

A
One more_ word, we will_ say one more word, till ev - 'ry

T
p
One more word, we will_ say one more_ word, till ev - 'ry

B
p
One more word, we will_ say one more word, till ev - 'ry

E B(sus4) B C#m A E/G# A B

21

S word is heard by ev - 'ry - one, we'll say one more word.

A word is heard by ev - 'ry - one, we'll say one more word.

T word is heard by ev - 'ry - one, we'll say one more word.

B word is heard by ev - 'ry - one, we'll say one more word.

E7/G# A/C# E/B B(sus4) B E

25

Amaj7/C F#m B7

28 **B**

S One more prayer, we will say one more prayer, till ev - 'ry

A One more prayer, we will say one more prayer, till ev - 'ry

T One more prayer, we will say one more prayer, till ev - 'ry

B One more prayer, we will say one more prayer, till ev - 'ry

E C#m F#m B(sus4) B

32

S prayer is shared by ev - 'ry - one we'll say one more prayer, and we'll sing

A prayer is shared, we'll say one more prayer, and we'll sing

T prayer is shared, we'll say one more prayer, and we'll sing

B prayer is shared, we'll say one more prayer, and we'll sing

E7/B A(sus4) A E/B B7/A E/B G#7/B#

C

36 *mp*

S one more song, we will sing one more song, till ev' - ry

A one more song, one more song, till ev' - ry

T one more song, we will sing one more song,

B one more song, we will sing one more song,

C#m C#m7/B Amaj7 E/B F#m7 E/G# Amaj7 B

40

S song is sung by ev - 'ry - one, —

A song is sung by ev - 'ry - one, —

T — — — — — till ev - 'ry song is sung by

B — — — — — till ev - 'ry song is sung by

E7(sus4) E7 A/E F7/Eb

43

S *mf* — — — — — till ev - 'ry song is sung by ev - 'ry - one__ we'll__ sing

A *mf* — — — — — till ev - 'ry song is sung by ev - 'ry - one__ we'll__ sing

T *mf* ev - 'ry - one, — till ev - 'ry song is sung by ev - 'ry - one__ we'll__ sing

B *mf* ev - 'ry - one, — till ev - 'ry song is sung by ev - 'ry - one__ we'll__ sing

Bb/D A/C# D

46

S
one more song, — one more song.

A
one more song, — one more, one more song.

T
one more, one more, one more song. *mp animated, joyful* And we'll sow

B
one more, one more, one more song. *mp animated, joyful* And we'll sow

A/C# F#m7 F#m7/C# D E

50 **D** *mp animated, joyful*

S
We will sow one more_ seed, — We will sow one more_ seed, — till there's a

A
mp animated, joyful
We will sow one more_ seed, — We will sow one more_ seed, — till there's a

T
one more seed, we will_ sow one more seed,

B
one more seed, we will_ sow one more seed,

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

mp animated, joyful

Opal Palmer Adisa, poet • Paul Adams, technological hero • Stephen Alexander, lyric consultant • Ginny Allen, Agile coach and friend • The great people at American Composers Forum • Yehuda Amichai, poet • A. R. Ammons, poet • Jennifer Anderson, conductor and composer advocate • Scott Bates, poet • Abbie Betinis, initiator of collaborative endeavors • Beth Norton, conductor and composer advocate • Dennis Blubaugh, more than just a music dealer • Michael deVernon Boblett, poet • Edna Busby, my first piano teacher • Ray Bradbury, writer • Augustin Cadena, translator • Norbert Capek, minister and advocate for religious freedom • Jessica Corbett, editor • David Cummings, poet • Philip Dacey, poet • Catherine Dalton, composer and serum partner • Emily Dickinson, poet • Evelyn Dudley, poet and caregiver • Rob Eller-Isaacs, minister and composer advocate • Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher and poet • Louise Erdrich, writer • David Allan Evans, poet • Sophia Lyon Fahs, writer • Richard M. Fewkes, minister and writer • Pasha Gertler, poet • Jack Gallagher, composer and teacher • Paul Gerike, proofreader • Jocelyn Hagen and Michael Hagan, founders of Graphite Marketplace • Steve Harper, just about everything • Steve Harkins, web designer • Edie Hill, composer and friend • Langston Hughes, poet • Margaret and George Heald, piano technician • Karel Husa, composer and teacher • David Ignatow, poet • Kabir, mystic • Linda Kachelmeier, composer and serum partner • Ruth Palmer, conductor and composer advocate • Joan Wolf Prefontaine, poet • Paul Rardin, conductor and composer advocate • Kalidasa, poet • Steve Kaul, recording engineer • Søren Kierkegaard, philosopher and poet • Dorothy Knost, piano teacher • Ben Krywosz, artistic director of Nautilus Music-Theater • Denise Levertov, poet • George Ella Lyon, poet • Jonathan Machen, vocalist • Dawna Markova, writer • Anne Matlack, conductor and composer advocate • Nancy Menk, composer advocate • Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet • Jane Ramseyer Miller, conductor, composer, social activist • Joe Mish, conductor and composer advocate • J. David Moore, composer • Gerald Rich, poet • Carl Sandburg, poet • friend • King Sigismund III, religious reformer • Ann Silsbee, composer, poet and friend • Simon Alexander-Adams, sounding board, fellow creative, and awesome son • Steven Stucky, composer and teacher • Rabindranath Tagore, poet • Sister Peronne Marie Thibert, teacher and writer • Oliver Alexander-Adams, unconventional thinker and light of my life • Howard Thurman, civil rights leader and writer • Everyone whose work supports the Association for Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries • Charles Varney, high school choral director • Anna Vonhuben, illustrator and graphic designer • Nancy White, poet • John Greenleaf Whittier, poet • Theodore Chickering Williams, poet • Daniel Winter, pianist and teacher • Nancy Wood, poet • Yehudi Wyner, composer and teacher

**A lot of hard work
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**...and some of it
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(You know why.) A complete perusal score may be
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62

S place for ev - 'ry one of us, —

A place for ev - 'ry one of us, —

T Till there's a place for ev - 'ry

B Till there's a place for ev - 'ry

A⁷
5

D/A

F⁷/A

65

S till there's a place for ev - 'ry

A till there's a place for ev - 'ry

T one of us, — a place for ev - 'ry

B one of us, — a place for ev - 'ry

B^b

E⁷/B

67

S one of us. And we'll cross *mf* with determination

A one of us. And we'll cross *mf* with determination

T one of us. And we'll cross *mf* with determination

B one of us. And we'll cross *mf* with determination

A/B B7(sus4) B

70 **F**

S one more bridge, we will cross one more bridge, till we have

A one more bridge, we will cross one more bridge, till we have

T one more bridge, we will cross one more bridge, till we have

B one more bridge, we will cross one more bridge, till we have

E G#7 C#m C#m7/B A E/B B B/A

74

S found the peace we're long - ing_ for_ we'll_ cross one_ more_ bridge.

A found the peace we're long - ing_ for_ we'll_ cross one more bridge.

T found the peace we're long - ing_ for_ we'll_ cross one more bridge.

B found the peace we're long - ing_ for_ we'll_ cross one_ more_ bridge.

E/G# E7/D A/C# F#m7 E/G# E/A A B

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 74 through 77. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "found the peace we're long - ing_ for_ we'll_ cross one_ more_ bridge." The piano part includes a chord progression: E/G#, E7/D, A/C#, F#m7, E/G#, E/A, A, B. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

G

78

S *f* Day by day, we will_ live day by day, and when_ we stum - ble,_

A *f* Day by day, we will_ live day_ by day, and when_ we stum - ble,_

T *f* Day_ by day by day, day by day, and when we

B *f* Day by day, we will_ live day by day, and when we

C#m G#m Amaj7 E/B F#m7/A Amaj7 B(sus4) B E/G#

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 78 through 81. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Day by day, we will_ live day by day, and when_ we stum - ble,_". The piano part includes a chord progression: C#m, G#m, Amaj7, E/B, F#m7/A, Amaj7, B(sus4), B, E/G#. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present at the beginning of each vocal line.

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**...and some of it
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Elizabeth Alexander

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90

f

S one_ more step, one_ more step, one_ more step,

A one_ more step, one_ more step, one_ more step,

T one_ more step, one_ more step, one_ more step,

B one_ more step, one_ more step, one_ more step,

A(sus4)/D A/C# E7/B

93

S one_ more step, We will take one more, we will take one more,

A one_ more step, We will take one, we will take one more, *mf*

T one_ more step, We will take one more, *mp*

B one_ more step, One more *p*

A E/B

H

Repeat as many times as needed

One or more individuals speak these phrases slowly, with a thoughtful pause between each one:

98

Solos

Phrase #1: "Till there is peace for us and everyone..."

Phrase #2: "Till every prayer is shared by everyone..."

Phrase #3: "Till there's a seed of hope in everyone..."

Phrase #4: "Till there's a place for every one of us..."

pp reverently

S
one more step, we will take one more step, we will take

pp reverently

A
one more step, we will take one more step, we will take

pp reverently, gently pulsing

T
one more step, one more step,

pp reverently

B
step, one more step, one more

E/B B(add9sus4)

p

Keep pedal depressed until end

102

S one more step.

A one more step.

T We will take one more, one more step.

B one more step.

E/B B(add9sus4) E/B

The optional repeat may be used for a recessional or extended moment of contemplation

108

S niente*

A niente*

T niente*

B niente*

Gradually fade out, keeping a steady, steadfast pace.

niente

* The choir's final cutoff may be different from performance to performance. You'll be able to when feel the right time is.