

# MY NEW COMMANDMENT

Ephrem Feeley

Gently (♩ = 74)

Org. *mp sempre*

The first system of the organ part consists of four measures. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature changes from 3/8 to 3/4 in the second measure, then to 3/8 in the third, and finally to 3/4 in the fourth. The music features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass clef and a more melodic line in the treble clef, with some notes beamed together.

Org.

The second system of the organ part consists of four measures, starting at measure 5. It continues the musical style of the first system, with a consistent eighth-note accompaniment and a melodic line in the treble clef. The time signature remains 3/4 for the first two measures and 3/8 for the last two.

## REFRAIN:

9 Descant:  
Choir/  
Assembly: I ask you, to love one a - no - ther,

The first line of the refrain starts at measure 9. It features a descant in the treble clef, which is a melodic variation of the main theme. The lyrics "I ask you, to love one a - no - ther," are written below the notes. The time signature is 3/4.

Choir/  
Assembly: This is my new com - mand - ment: to love one a - no - ther,

The second line of the refrain continues the lyrics "This is my new com - mand - ment: to love one a - no - ther,". The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with a steady accompaniment in the bass clef and a clear melody in the treble clef. The time signature is 3/4.

Org.

The third system of the organ part consists of four measures, starting at measure 17. It provides accompaniment for the second line of the refrain. The music maintains the 3/4 time signature and the key signature of three sharps.

13

as I have loved you, as I have loved you.

just as I have loved you, just as I have loved you.

Org.

To Verses

**VERSES:**

17 **Cantor:**

1. While they were at ta - ble, Je - sus took the bread and said:

2. When the meal was en - ded, Je - sus took the cup and said:

3. Ta - king towel and ba - sin, Je - sus washed the dis - ci - ples' feet;

4. "If you wish to be the great - est, you must be - come the least of all."

5. There is no love grea - ter than to lay \_\_\_\_\_ down your life,

17

Org. *mp*

21

"This is my bo - dy, bro - ken for you."

"This is my blood, poured out for you."

giv - ing ex - am - ple, the same for us to do.

Be - come a ser - vant to those most in need.

as Je - sus laid down his life for his friends.

Org.

To Refrain

Composer's Notes:

The *mandatum*, or commandment, that Jesus gave the night before he died was, "to love one another." The Gospel of John records that this is given when Jesus washes the disciples' feet, and, by extension, is given to all who follow Christ: to serve others and look after the needs of the Christian community. The synoptic tradition also sees Jesus breaking bread and sharing wine on this night, and thus instituting the Eucharist.

This piece is particularly suitable for Holy Thursday; the third verse is apt for the ritual of washing of the feet, but, without this verse, the piece has many other uses: as a general communion processional, offertory hymn, or any other occasion where the theme is of service and love. The verses may be taken by either a soloist or small group. The simple two-part refrain makes this setting accessible for smaller choirs, and, if desired, the descant line may be played on a C instrument.