



# again, I say Rejoice!

35 NEW SONGS FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, AND CHoir  
BY MARK BURROWS

## **Necessity. That's what started it all. We needed songs, and lots of them.**

As Director of Children's Ministries at First United Methodist Church – Fort Worth, one of my biggest responsibilities is putting together a monthly worship service for children and families called "Children First." With hundreds of children in attendance, we need songs that are fun, easy to learn, and get the kids moving. We also needed songs for more intimate gatherings – Sunday school classes, story time – and opportunities for our youngest to explore the sacraments and symbols of our faith.

All the songs in this collection were designed to be learned quickly. There are call-and-response songs, echo songs, songs with catchy refrains, songs with body percussion, and songs with simple movements.

The songs range in mood from the humorous to the heartfelt, and occasionally combine the two. They cover themes such as God's Love, Faith, Acceptance, Patience, Coping with Fear, and Self-Concept. There are several scripture songs.

These songs can be used everywhere from children's worship to Sunday school classes, and can even serve as choir rehearsal "brain breaks."

No matter what the setting, the primary purpose of each song is the same: to help children fall in love with God. Here's hoping this collection can, in some way, help you to that end as you continue the very important ministry of walking with children on their journey of faith.



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# REACH UP, REACH IN, REACH OUT

$\text{♩} = 108$   
Gm

Piano

3 Call:

We can talk to God—  
God will guide our hands—

Response:

(We can talk to God—)  
(God will guide our hands...)

5 C:

an - y time of day—  
God will guide our hearts—

R:

(an - y time of day—)  
(God will guide our hearts...)

7 Cm

R:

and we need to lis - ten  
God can give us pow - er

C:

(and we need to lis - ten)  
(God can give us pow - er)

9 Gm

R:

what God has to say—  
serve and do our part—

All:

Reach  
(to what God has to say...)  
(to serve and do our part...)

11 Gm/D Cm Gm Cm

up, reach in, reach up, reach in, reach

14 Gm

out!

(up octave last time only)

# AGAIN, I SAY REJOICE!

Philippians 4:4

$\text{♩} = 80$   
Gm

[Stomp stomp clap] [stomp stomp clap] [stomp stomp clap] Re -

Spoken: *f*

Piano

5 (continue body percussion throughout)

joyce in the Lord al - ways, a - gain I say re - joyce!

F Gm

9 joyce in the Lord a - gain I say re - joyce!

F Gm

13 joyce!

Re - joyce!

A - gain I say re - joyce!

F Gm

17 joyce!

Re - joyce!

A - gain I say re - joyce!

F Gm

21 Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men!

F Gm

25 Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men!

F Gm

1. 2.

Re -

# YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LOUD (TO PRAISE THE LORD)



$\text{♩} = 108$   
F7

first time: *f*  
second time: *p*  
third time: silent, motions only

You don't have to be loud.

Piano

*f*

4

to praise the Lord.

7 Bb7

You don't have to be proud — to praise the Lord.

10 C7

It does - n't mat - ter if you're big or small, God

13 Bb7

hears each voice; God loves them all. — You don't have to be loud.

16

— to praise the Lord.

\*Third time, play beat one chord only, then silent to the end while children do the motions.



This song is best done in a call-and-response.

A leader or small group sings the call **"I'm a cool cat."**

The rest of the group responds with **"Ah,"** which needs to have the same quality as the sound you make when you're just had a refreshing drink of water on a hot day.

Every time the leader/small group sings **"copy cat"** the rest of the group must echo that exactly, acting like copy cats. Get it?

## COOL CAT

*mf* *Piano*

$\text{♩} = 120$   
Em Em/D

6 C B Em Em/D C B Em Em/D C B  
Ah, not a co-py cat, co-py cat. I'm a cool cat, Ah, not a



11 Em C B Amp<sup>6</sup> Bsus  
co-py cat, co-py cat. I fol-low God, not the crowd,— I ain't in to that,—

16 B Em Em/D C B Em Em/D  
— I'm a cool, cool cat. Ah. Not a co-py cat, co-py cat.

21 C Em Em/D C B Em Em/D  
I'm a cool, cool cat. Ah. Not a co-py cat, co-py cat.

25 C Am Em/B C/B B Em Em#6  
co-py cat, co-py cat, co-py cat, co-py cat. I'm a cool, cool cat. Ah.

# IF I WAS A PUPPY

Country (♩ = 96)

F F/A Bb Bb/D Bb F/C C7 F

*f*

5 *f*

If I was a pup - - py, then I would bark a song— of praise.  
 If I was a kit - - ten, then I would meow a song— of praise.

Bb Dm C7

9 F F/A Bb Bb/D Bb F/C C7 F

Arf, arf, arf. Arf, arf, arf, arf, arf.  
 Meow, meow, meow. Meow, meow, meow, meow, meow.

13 *p*

F/A Bb Bb/D Bb F/C C7 F

Arf, arf, arf. Arf, arf, arf, arf, arf.  
 Meow, meow, meow. Meow, meow, meow, meow, meow.

More verses:  
 3...sheep...baa  
 4...cow...moo  
 5...chicken...cluck  
 6...duckling...quack

“Once a big fish...” – Make a big fish mouth with arms, and pretend to catch Jonah.

“Three long days...” – Keeping “fish mouth” closed, swim pretend to swim around the room.

“Then the fish...” – Place hands by mouth and then flick fingers out as if “spitting out” Jonah.

“Jonah learned...” – March in place.

# ONCE A BIG FISH CAUGHT A MAN

*f*

A D

*f*

1. Once a big fish caught a man,  
 2. Three long days it swam a-round,  
 3. Then the fish spat Jo - nah out,  
 4. Jo - nah learned to fol - low God,

Piano

7 A D A D

caught a man, caught a man. Once a big fish caught a man. That man was Jo - nah.  
 swam a - round, swam a - round. Three long days it swam a - round. Jo - nah in its bel - ly.  
 Jo - nah out, Jo - nah out. Then the fish spat Jo - nah out, safe - ly on - to dry land.  
 fol - low God, fol - low God. Jo - nah learned to fol - low God, do - ing what God told him.