

When I Pray with Heart Sincere

for Avery Corene Ekins



by Vanessa McClintock

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For my only granddaughter, Avery Corene Ekins, this piece came to me early in February 2025.

It is rather straight forward, though the harmonies are a bit deceptively simple, as with most of my work. This is noticeable in the repeat of the first part of the verse.

Avery is very energetic and much different than what this music might suggest. I have composed a short piano piece (*En Mouvement*), that was inspired by watching the seemingly unrelenting vitality and goodness of her, as she was in continuous motion (with few exceptions) from first light to just moments before bedtime when her energy would gracefully subside like a deflating balloon.

This (hopefully) captures her thoughtful and reflective side; it is the way both music (and then) words came to me.

When I Pray With Heart Sincere

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Lovingly ♩ = 82 *rit.*

Soprano

Piano *mf*

a tempo

mf

5 When I pray with heart sin - cere I speak o - pen - ly and feel Thee near.
Si - lent - ly, — and peace - ful - ly, With an o - pen heart and bend - ed knees,

9 Prayer - ful - ly my heart goes out, — Hear, now, my prayer to Thee.
All my heart, and all my soul, My prayer I of - fer Thee.

13 Grant me the strength to help my fel - low man, Guide me with kind - ness and up - lift - ing hands,



The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Lovingly' with a quarter note equal to 82 beats per minute. The score begins with a piano introduction marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The vocal part enters at measure 5 with the lyrics 'When I pray with heart sincere'. The piano accompaniment features flowing sixteenth-note patterns in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. The score includes a repeat sign at measure 5 and a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking at the top right. The lyrics are arranged in two lines per measure, with some words spanning across measures. The score ends at measure 13.

17 *rit.*

Help me to see Thy face in ev' ry one, and love them as Thou loves me. _____

21 *a tempo*

When I pray, with heart sin-cere, Let me feel and know that Thou art near.
Grate-ful-ly, I am yours, I come un-to Thee with thoughts so pure,

25 *rit.* **Fine** *a tempo*

Strength-en me when I feel weak, and Watch o-ver me while I sleep.

D.S. al Fine

29 *mf*

Text and music:
Vanessa McClintock, b. 1946; LDS
Tune name: AVERY

James 1:5
Helaman 3:27