

Freedom



Fight for freedom,
Pray for peace...

Music and Lyrics by
Vanessa McClintock

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Freedom

Hymn with music and lyrics by
Vanessa McClintock

This hymn, FREEDOM, has been 24 years in the making.

In June 2001 (three months before “9/11”), I was struck with the inspiration to write the music (just the music) to what quickly became a hymn tune. All I knew at that time was the title—FREEDOM—and the need to put that inspiration into some earthly musical form. Since that time, I had struggled intermittently to come up with the lyrics (the text or the “hymn”).

Bits and pieces came to me sporadically throughout the years, but with a struggle each time. Sometimes I would receive a clause, or a snippet, or sometimes a full line, and often with no adequate rhyme.

This continued for 24 years.

Then, in August of this year (2025), I started getting more glimpses into the purpose and direction of this hymn. The lyrics came in longer “chunks” so to speak, and the overall message became more clear. One of my struggles and inner conflicts was the sense to deliver a hymn that could be accepted universally, regardless of one’s religious beliefs, while yet remaining true to my own faith. This, ultimately, was much the end result.

A major breakthrough came with the idea to insert the message of one of my favourite scriptures, one that to me distills the essence of Christianity and that speaks universally to the heart of brotherly love, of mutual love within humanity.

That scripture is found in the New Testament of the Holy Bible, 1 Corinthians 13—the entire chapter. The key components are “faith, hope, and charity.” Some translations use “love” instead of “charity,” and I have used such in earlier piano works in the set “...of a Child” which consist of *The Faith of a Child*, *The Hope...*, and *The Love... “of a Child.”*

However, I understand more fully that “charity” is “the pure love of Christ,” which is found in The Book of Mormon, Moroni 7:27.

With this concept firmly anchored, the rest of the hymn began to congeal.

In early September (2025), I felt the dam crack and the inspiration begin to flow more freely. Full sentences and complete thoughts became the new norm in the process of translating the essence of the inspiration into suitable and meaningful words—and with rhyme.

The final line in each verse is the same, drawing upon the message of 1 Corinthians 13:
“Fight for freedom, pray for peace, live with faith, hope, and charity.”

:-)

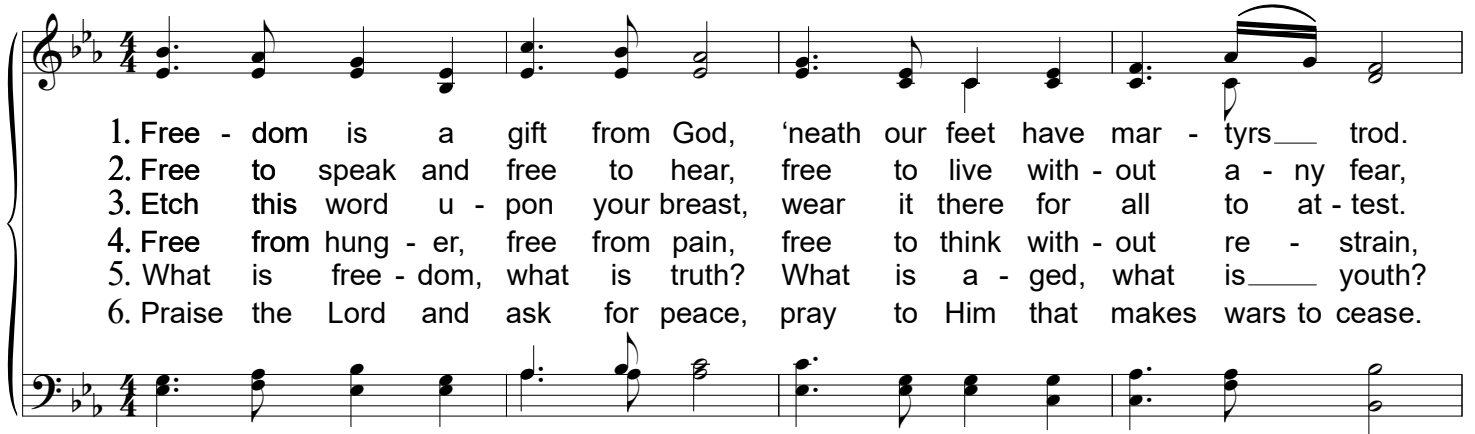
Vanessa McClintock

September 2025

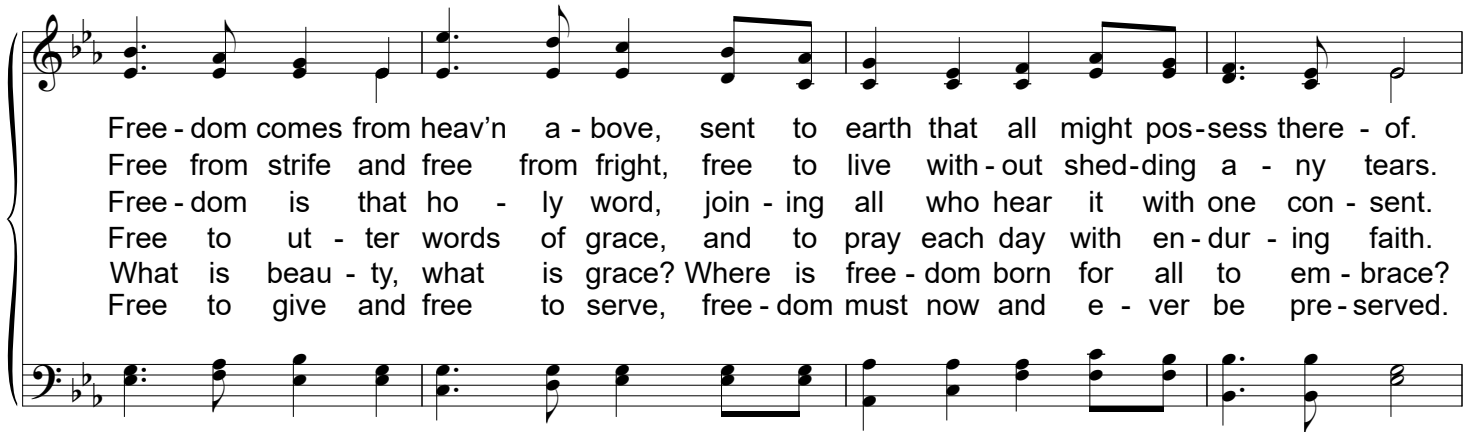
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Freedom

Thoughtfully ♩=76-84



1. Free - dom is a gift from God, 'neath our feet have mar - tyrs___ trod.
 2. Free to speak and free to hear, free to live with - out a - ny fear,
 3. Etch this word u - pon your breast, wear it there for all to at - test.
 4. Free from hung - er, free from pain, free to think with - out re - strain,
 5. What is free - dom, what is truth? What is a - ged, what is___ youth?
 6. Praise the Lord and ask for peace, pray to Him that makes wars to cease.



Free - dom comes from heav'n a - bove, sent to earth that all might pos - sess there - of.
 Free from strife and free from fright, free to live with - out shed - ding a - ny tears.
 Free - dom is that ho - ly word, join - ing all who hear it with one con - sent.
 Free to ut - ter words of grace, and to pray each day with en - dur - ing faith.
 What is beau - ty, what is grace? Where is free - dom born for all to em - brace?
 Free to give and free to serve, free - dom must now and e - ver be pre - served.

5

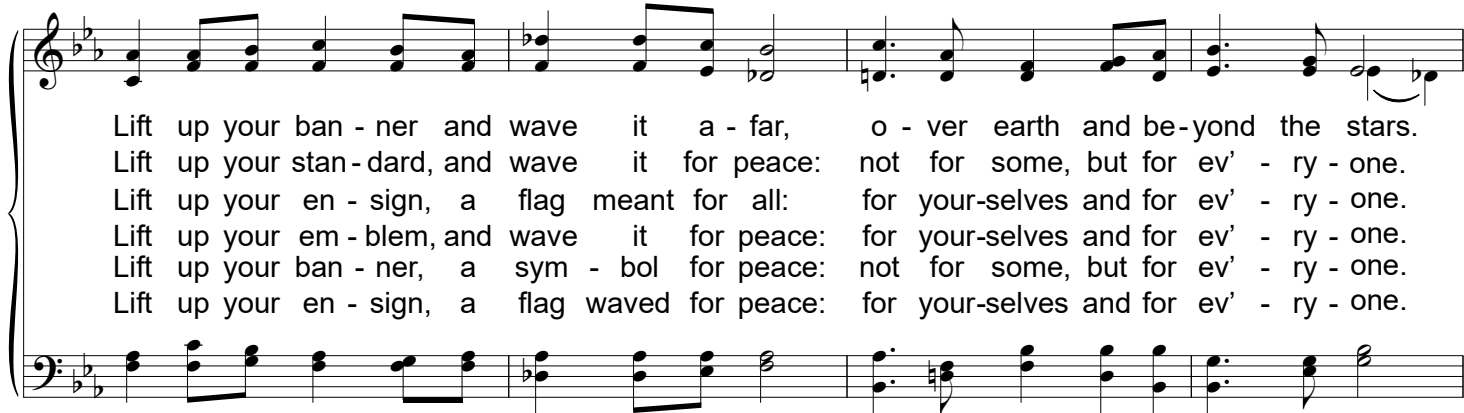
Text and music:
 Vanessa McClintock, b. 1946
 Tune name: FREEDOM

1 Corinthians 13
 Romans 8:1,2

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9



Lift up your ban - ner and wave it a - far, o - ver earth and be - yond the stars.
 Lift up your stan - dard, and wave it for peace: not for some, but for ev' - ry - one.
 Lift up your en - sign, a flag meant for all: for your-selves and for ev' - ry - one.
 Lift up your em - blem, and wave it for peace: for your-selves and for ev' - ry - one.
 Lift up your ban - ner, a sym - bol for peace: not for some, but for ev' - ry - one.
 Lift up your en - sign, a flag waved for peace: for your-selves and for ev' - ry - one.

13



rall.

Lift up your voic - es and sing a - loud; sing for now, and for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 Lift up your voic - es and sing a - loud; sing from here, and from all e - ter - ni - ty.
 Lift up your voic - es and sing a - loud; sing for now, and for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 Lift up your voic - es and sing a - loud; sing for now, and for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 Lift up your voic - es and sing a - loud; sing for now, and for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 Lift up your voic - es and sing a - loud; sing right here and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

17



a tempo

Fight for free - dom, pray for peace, live with faith, hope, and char - i - ty.
 Fight for free - dom, pray for peace, live with faith, hope, and char - i - ty.
 Fight for free - dom, pray for peace, live with faith, hope, and char - i - ty.
 Fight for free - dom, pray for peace, live with faith, hope, and char - i - ty.
 Fight for free - dom, pray for peace, live with faith, hope, and char - i - ty.
 Fight for free - dom, pray for peace, live with faith, hope, and char - i - ty.

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