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Lord of the Dance
by SYDNEY CARTER

Since 1892

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance, and they would not follow me,
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
they came with me and the Dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the Dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

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Foreword

Sydney Carter's classic hymn, *Lord of the Dance*, is a metaphor of the life of Christ. In beautiful, poetic language, Carter describes Jesus as The Piper, calling his followers to the dance of life. This work is an elaboration on that hymn, portraying each verse individually in a dramatic, colorful presentation -- all retelling the story from John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

This 30-minute work is flexible enough to be used anytime during Lent, following Sydney Carter's hymn text, as it frames the life of Christ.

BIRTH: *I danced in the morning when the world was begun.*

LIFE: *I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee.*

DEATH: *I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.*

RESURRECTION: *They cut me down and I leapt up high.*

For Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, it may be concluded with the musical benediction, *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. For Palm Sunday or Easter morning there is an additional narration and underscore (*On the Third Day*) that leads into an exciting, complete setting of *Lord of the Dance*, celebrating Christ's victorious resurrection.

Narration and scripture have been carefully chosen to complete the story, tying together the verses of *Lord of the Dance* with a variety of other timeless hymns and songs, creating a meaningful worship experience for the congregation. The piano accompaniment works extremely well by itself, while the optional instrumental parts require a minimal number of players and will enhance the overall effect.

No matter how you use *Lord of the Dance*, I hope you will enjoy sharing this musical experience with your congregation.

- Joel Raney

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1. I Danced in the Morning

Words by
SYDNEY CARTER
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

LORD OF THE DANCE
Shaker Melody, 19th c.
Adapted by SYDNEY CARTER

① Reflectively (♩ = c. 90)

Piano

5

9

NARRATOR: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,

that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world...

13

...but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

Through his Son, God's word became flesh. "In him was life and that life was the Light of all mankind." (John 1:4)

rit.

a tempo

17

mf

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20

② S.A. *mp*

I danced in the morn-ing when the

T.B. *mp*

I danced in the morn-ing when the

mp

23

world was be-gun, I

world was be-gun, when the world was be-gun, I

I Danced in the Morning

4

26

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, the stars and

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,

Since 1892

29

sun, I came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth.

mf

mf

mf

32

At Beth - le - hem I

35 NARRATOR: And so the life of Jesus began. He grew up in

had my birth.

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mp

in a town called Nazareth. Even as a child he was filled with wisdom. He grew in stature and became strong, and the grace of God was on him. (Luke 2)

40

44 *mp* rit. SEGUE

And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

mp rit. SEGUE

2. Fairest Lord Jesus

Words: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

CRUSADER'S HYMN
Music: *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

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NARRATOR: When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.

③ Sweetly (♩ = c. 90)

Piano

And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven:

A little slower (♩ = c. 80)

"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22)

12 S.A. Unison *mp*

Fair - est Lord Je - sus. rul - er of all

T.B. Unison *mp*

mp

15 *mf*

na - ture, O thou of God and

mf

mf

18

man the Son,

thee will I

Fairest Lord Jesus

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8

21

cher-ish, thee will I hon-or, thou,

mp

24

my soul's glo-ry, joy, and

mp

27

crown!

5 NARRATOR: Jesus said,
I am the good shepherd;

mp

Fairest Lord Jesus

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I know my sheep and my sheep know me; just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.

30

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I will lay down my life for the sheep, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10)

BRADBURY
Words: Attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp
Music: William B. Bradbury

S.A. *mf*

33

Sav - ior, like a Shep-herd

T.B. *mf*

mf

36

lead us, much we need thy ten-der care;

Fairest Lord Jesus

10

39

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us,

41

for our use thy folds pre - pare: Bless - ed

44

Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we

47

are; bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus,

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50 rit. *mp* Slowly (♩ = c. 72)

thou hast bought us, thine we

mp

rit. Slowly (♩ = c. 72)

mp

8vb - - -

53 rit.

are.

rit.

Fairest Lord Jesus

3. I Danced for the Scribe and the Pharisee

Words by
SYDNEY CARTER
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

LORD OF THE DANCE
Shaker Melody, 19th c.
Adapted by SYDNEY CARTER



(SOPRANO &
ALTO TACET)
7 Slowly (♩ = c. 76)

NARRATOR: But who believed the message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up like a tender shoot,

Piano

and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind,

5

a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and held in low esteem. (Isaiah 53)

9

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12 8 T.B. Unison *mp*

I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, _____

15 *mf*

but they would not dance and they would not fol-low me; _____

18

I danced for the fish - er - men, for _____

20 *mp* SEGUE

James and John; they came with me and the Dance went on. _____

SEGUE

I Danced for the Scribe and Pharisee

4. I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Traditional Spiritual

Arranged by JOEL RANEY

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NARRATOR: James and John were two of the twelve disciples Jesus called to walk with him on earth.

9 Steady (♩ = c. 96)

Piano

They saw him heal the sick and walk on the water, and they eagerly listened as he spoke to his followers.

4

They ate with him, fished with him, and learned from him. They saw the crowds cheering him as he walked along the road to Jerusalem for the last time.

8

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12 10 S.A. Unison *mp*

I want Je - sus to walk with me.

T.B. Unison *mp*

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16

I want Je - sus to walk with

19 *mf*

me; all a - long my

mf

16

22 *mp*

— pil - grim - jour - ney, I want

mp

Since 1892 *mp*

25

Je - sus ————— to walk with me.

28 11 *mf*

In my — tri - als, Lord, ————— walk — with

mf

In my — tri - als, Lord, —————

mf

31

me. In my tri-als, Lord,
walk with me. In my

34

walk with me. When my
tri-als, Lord, walk with me.

37

whole life be-comes a bur - den,

18

40 *mp*

I want Je - sus to walk with

43 *f*

me. In my

47

sor - row, Lord, please walk with me.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

50

In my sor-row, Lord, please walk with me.

53

me. When my poor heart

56

is at most break-ing, I want

59 *mp*

Je- sus — to walk with me,

mp

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62

to walk with me, to walk with

to walk with me,

65

me. Je- sus, walk with me.

f

rit.



5. My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by
WILLIAM R. FEATHERSTONE

GORDON
Music by ADONIRAM J. GORDON
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

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(13) Expressively (♩ = c. 80)

NARRATOR: That night in Jerusalem, Jesus shared the Passover feast with his disciples. He broke bread for them,

Piano

shared the cup with them, and asked them to think of him whenever they did this. Jesus spoke of his enemies, of his death, and even told his disciples

5

that one of them would betray him before the night was through. They each refused to believe it could be them, and all declared their loyalty and undying love.

9

(14) S.A. Unison *mp*

My Je - sus, I love — thee, I





22

16

know thou art mine,

T.B. Unison *mp*

for thee, all the

Since 1892

19

fol - lies of sin I re - sign;

mf

my *mf*

22

gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art

mf



25 *mp*

thou; if ev er I loved thee,

28

my Je - sus, 'tis

31 *p*

15 NARRATOR: After the meal, they sang a hymn together, and then departed for the Mount of Olives, where Jesus went to...

now.

p



24

...the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

34

mf

In man - sions of

mf

Since 1892

mf

37

glo - ry and end less de - light. I'll

40

ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so

My Jesus, I Love Thee



43

bright; I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing

46

crown on my brow; if

mp

49

ev - er I loved thee,

mp

rit.

52 *f* *mp* *a tempo*

my Je - sus... 'tis
my Je - sus...

56

now...

59

rit.
p

6. I Danced on the Sabbath

Words by
SYDNEY CARTER
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

LORD OF THE DANCE
Shaker Melody, 19th c.
Adapted by SYDNEY CARTER

[16] Gently (♩ = c. 88)

NARRATOR: During his ministry on earth, Jesus had amassed many enemies.

Piano

Because he performed miracles of healing on the Sabbath, some Pharisees accused him of breaking the Sabbath law.

They sought to kill him because he insisted that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. That night after Passover,

as Jesus was praying in the Garden, Roman soldiers came and arrested him. He was accused, tried, and ultimately convicted of crimes he didn't commit.

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15 17 S.A. Unison *mf*

T.B. Unison *mf*

I

I danced on the Sab-bath and I

Since 1892

18

danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame, _____ the

cured the lame, _____ I cured the lame, _____ *mf*

21

ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame; _____

rit.

rit.

I Danced on the Sabbath

NARRATOR: Jesus was whipped, mocked, and forced to carry a cross on his back to Golgotha where he was to be crucified.

18 a tempo

25

p

29

Dramatically

19 *f*

they

f

Dramatically

ff

33

whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;

35 *mp* Slowly (♩ = 66) //

and they left me there on the cross to die.

mp //

Slowly (♩ = 66) //

mp //

38 20 Contemplatively (♩ = c. 80)
Solo *p*

Dance, then, where ev - er you may be;

Contemplatively (♩ = c. 80)
Oboe cue

p

41 rit. a tempo NARRATOR: When they came to the place called the Skull,

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

rit. a tempo

they crucified him there, along with two criminals, one on either side. Jesus cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

46 **poco accel.** 21 **Gently** (♩ = c. 88) **S.A. mp**

Fa - ther, for -

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T.B. mp **Gently** (♩ = c. 88) **mp**

50

give them, bring them home to you.

53

Fa - ther, for - give them, for they know not what they

32

56 *mf*

do. Fa - ther, for - give them,

mf

mf

59

bring them home to you. Fa - ther, for -

62 *rit.* *pp*

give them, for they know not what they do. *pp*

rit. *pp*

I Danced on the Sabbath

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7. Remember Me

Words by
JOEL RANEY

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

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NARRATOR: One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Jesus:
"Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

22 Steady (♩ = c. 80)

Piano

But the other criminal rebuked him, saying, "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

4

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

8

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12 23 *mp*

In your king-dom, Lord, re-mem-ber

mp

mp

15

me... In your king-dom, Lord,

18

re-mem-ber me;

20 *mf* *f*

when my life on earth is

mf *f*

mf *f*

23 *mf*

o - ver, Lord Je - sus,

mf

mf

26 rit. *mp*

re - mem - ber me.

mp

rit. *mp*

Remember Me



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8. I Danced on a Friday

Words by SYDNEY CARTER
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

LORD OF THE DANCE
Shaker Melody, 19th c.
Adapted by SYDNEY CARTER

24 Mournfully (♩ = c. 72)

NARRATOR: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,

Piano *p*

for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice,

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

7 *mf*

10

danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black;

12

it's hard to dance with the

14

dev - il on your back;

I Danced on a Friday

16 26 *p*

then they bur - ted my bod - y and they

p

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19

thought I'd gone. but

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21 *rit.* SEGUE

I am the Dance and I still go on.

rit. SEGUE

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9. O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Words by
WASHINGTON GLADDEN

MARYTON
Music by WILLIAM H. WALTER
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

NARRATOR: And the Dance goes on...still. It goes on in the hearts of believers,
and in the lives of his followers. His crucifixion was not without meaning.

27 Quietly ($\text{♩} = \text{c.}76$)

Piano *pp*

“He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (*Isaiah 53*) Yes, the Dance goes on...

5

rit.

Reflectively ($\text{♩} = \text{c.}92$) “In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future’s broadening way,

9

mp

in peace that only Christ can give, with thee, O Master, let us live.”

13

17 (28)

S.A. Unison *mp*

O Mas - ter, let me walk with

T.B. Unison *mp*

Since 1892

22

thee in low - ly paths of ser - vice

mf

26

free; tell me thy se - cret:

mp

30 *mp* *mf*

help me bear the strain of
help me bear, help me bear the strain of

35 *f*

toil, the fret of care,
toil, the fret of care,

40

45 (29) T.B. *mp*

*When I sur - vey the won - drous

mp

49 *mf*

cross on which the Prince of glo - ry

mf

53 S.A. *mp*

my rich - est gain I count__ but loss, _____

died, _____ count__ but

mp

*From "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", Words: Isaac Watts

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

58 *mf*

and pour con - tempt on all my pride.

loss

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63 30 *rall.* *f* Broadly (♩ = c. 88)

Were the whole

rall. *f* Broadly (♩ = c. 88)

67

realm of na - ture mine, that were an of - fering

44

72

far — too small; love so a - maz - ing

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77

so — di - vine, de - mands my

rit. **ff** With grandeur (♩ = c. 80)

rit. **ff** With grandeur (♩ = c. 80)

81

soul, — my life, my — all,

rit. With movement (♩ = c. 92)

rit. With movement (♩ = c. 92)

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

85 *mf* *decesc.*

my all, my all.

mf *decesc.*

mf *decesc.*

89 rit. **32** *p* Hushed (♩ = c. 80)

And I'll lead you all in the

p

Hushed (♩ = c. 80)

rit. *p*

94 rit. *pp*

Dance, said he.

pp

rit. *pp*

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

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10. Benediction*

Words by
WILLIAM R. FEATHERSTONE
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

GORDON
Music by
ADONIRAM J. GORDON

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33 Reflectively (♩ = c. 76)

S.A. Unison *p* (opt. Congregation join on melody)**

Since 1892

My Je - sus, I

T.B. Unison *p*

Reflectively (♩ = c. 76)

Piano *p*

4

love — thee, I know thou art mine, for

*NOTE: If "I Am the Lord of the Dance" (final movement) is used, then omit this piece.

**Congregational part can be found on pg. 62

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7

thee all the fol - lies of sin I re -

10

sign; my gra - cious Re - deem - er, my

13

Sav - ior art thou; if ev - er I

Benediction

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48

16 *rit.*

loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now. I

rit.

19 *a tempo*

love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me, and

8vb

23

pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree; I

27

love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow; if

31 *rit.*

ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

rit.

Benediction

(If being performed during Holy Week, prior to Easter, congregation may exit in silence.)

11. On the Third Day

(Instrumental Only)

Arranged by
JOEL RANEY

CRUSADER'S HYMN &
LORD OF THE DANCE
Adapted by SYDNEY CARTER

(CHOIR TACET)
34 Steady (♩ = c. 80)

NARRATOR: The third day after his crucifixion, friends of Jesus went to visit the tomb where he was buried, only to find it empty.

Piano

Two men in gleaming clothes said to them: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

And upon his resurrection, Christ became more than "Lamb of God," he became "Christ the Conqueror." He came to earth as "Emmanuel" and left the earth as "Redeemer,"

"Lord of All," "Lord of Hosts," "Lord of Glory," and yes, "Lord of the Dance."

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50

16 35

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19

Christ is the incarnation of the piper, calling us to the Dance of eternal life. He came down from heaven to lead that Dance.

22

In love and grace he endured the cross so we could all move together, in sync with God's divine plan.

26

His life, death and resurrection were carefully choreographed by God, and selflessly performed...for us.

29 SEGUE

12. I Am the Lord of the Dance

Words by
SYDNEY CARTER
Arranged by JOEL RANEY

LORD OF THE DANCE
Shaker Melody, 19th c.

Adapted by SYDNEY CARTER

NARRATOR: Dance, then, wherever you may
be. I'll live in you... if you'll live in me.

[36] Joyfully (♩ = c. 120-124)

Piano

4

7

danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun,

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52

10

I danced in the moon, and the stars and the sun.

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13

I came down from heav-en and I

16

danced on the earth. At

I Am the Lord of the Dance

19 (37)

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.

22 *mf*

Dance, then, where - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

mf

25

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where - ev - er you may be, and I'll

I Am the Lord of the Dance

54

28 38 *mp*

lead you all in the Dance, said he. I

31

danced for the Scribe and the Phar-i-see,
but they would not dance, and they

34

I danced for the fish-er-men, for
would not fol-low me;

I Am the Lord of the Dance

37

James and John; _____

they came with me and the

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40

on, on, and on, and on, and on.

Dance went on, and on, and on.

39

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43

f Dance, then, where - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

f

f

I Am the Lord of the Dance

56

46 *mf*

Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where - ev - er you may be, and I'll

mf

Since 1892 *mf*

49

lead you all in the Dance, said

52 (40) *mp* *Meno mosso*

he. I danced on a Fri - day when the

mp

Meno mosso

mp

I Am the Lord of the Dance

55

sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the

58

rit. Slower (♩ = c. 104)

dev-il on your back; they but-ied my bod-y and they

61

thought I'd gone, but

58

accel. e cresc. poco a poco

64

I am the Dance and I still go on, _____

accel. e cresc. poco a poco

67

I am the Dance and I still go on, _____

I am the Dance and I still go on,

70

cresc. **molto rit.** **ff** (41) Joyfully (♩ = c. 118)

I am the Dance and I still go on, and on. _____

cresc. **ff**

cresc. **ff**

molto rit. Joyfully (♩ = c. 118)

I Am the Lord of the Dance

73 *molto rall.* *f*

They

f

molto rall.

Since 1892 *mf* *f*

76 *With breadth* (♩ = c. 108)

cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll

With breadth (♩ = c. 108)

79

nev - er, nev - er die, I'll live in you — if you'll live in me;

I Am the Lord of the Dance

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60

42 rit.

82

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

With passion (♩ = c. 100)

85

ff Dance, then, where - ev - er you may be,

With passion (♩ = c. 100)

ff

87

I am the Lord of the Dance said he, and I'll lead you all where -

I Am the Lord of the Dance

90

ev - er you may be, and I'll lead you all

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93

in the Dance, said

lead you all in the Dance, rit.

rit.

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96

he.

a tempo

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I Am the Lord of the Dance

Benediction

Words by
WILLIAM R.
FEATHERSTONE

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

GORDON
Music by
ADONIRAM J. GORDON

Congregation
(on cue)



1. My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art
2. I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed



mine, for thee all the fol - lies of
me, and pur - chased my par - don on



sin I re - sign; my gra - cious Re -
Cal - va - ry's tree; I love thee for



deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou; _____
wear - ing the thorns on thy brow; _____ if



ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

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