

Michal Dawson Connor



LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

MEDITATION FOR COMMUNION
FOR SATB CHOIR A CAPPELLA

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meditation for communion
for SATB choir a cappella

An indomitable sense of hope, and unvarnished sorrow, permeate each line and melody of these unforgettable songs- forged in the anvil of abject misery and despair, aching for freedom's light.

Humiliated beyond all human reckoning, and given no respite from the daily drudgery of endless toil- these fiercely resilient souls somehow persevered, despite the harshest obstacles- leaving behind a true golden legacy of words and music to cherish.

In his famous autobiography, Frederick Douglass wrote:

"Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears."

I am deeply honored to present these musical footprints of my proud ancestors- and hope that by singing them, we pause to remember the undaunted courage and grit of the men and women who originally composed them.

— MICHAL DAWSON CONNOR

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Lord, I Want To Be A Christian

Meditation for Communion
for SATB Choir a cappella

arr. by Michal Dawson Connor

Impavido e Dolce ♩ = 50

Soprano *mf*
In - a my heart, in my heart, want to be like Je - sus!

Alto *mf*
In - a my heart, in my heart, want to be like Je - sus!

Tenor *mf*
In - a my heart, in my heart, want to be like Je - sus!

Bass *mf*
In - a my heart, in my heart, want to be like Je - sus!

Piano
(for rehearsal only)

5 *sub. p* *mf*
S 1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart, in - a my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in-a my heart, in - a my heart.

A *sub. p* *mf*
1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in - a my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in - a my heart.

T *sub. p* *mf*
1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, my Lord, in - a my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, my Lord, in - a my heart.

B *sub. p* *mf*
1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in - a my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in - a my heart.

5

Lord, I Want To Be A Christian

9 *p* *f*

S
Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian in - a my heart. In - a my
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in - a my heart.

A
Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian in - a my heart. In - a my, —
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in - a my heart.

T
8 Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian in - a my heart. — In - a my,
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in - a my heart. —

B
p *f*
Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian in - a my heart. In - a my
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in - a my heart.

13 *pp*

S
heart, — in my heart, hmm Lord, I want to

A
heart, — in - a my heart, oh, hmm Lord, I want to

T
8 in - a my, in - a my heart, — in - a my heart, — oh, — hmm Lord, — I — want to

B
pp
heart, — in - a my heart, oh, hmm Lord, I want to

18

rit. *mf a tempo*

S be a Chris - tian in - a my heart, in - a my heart, in my heart.

rit. *mf a tempo*

A be a Chris - tian in - a my heart, in - a my heart, in my heart.

rit. *mf a tempo*

T be a Chris - tian in - a my heart, in - a my heart, in my heart.

rit. *mf a tempo*

B be a Chris - tian in - a my heart, in - a my heart, in my heart.

22

1. *molto rit.*

S Help me be like Je - sus. Help me be like Je - sus.

molto rit.

A Help me be like Je - sus. Help me be like Je - sus.

molto rit.

T Help me be like Je - sus. Help me be like Je - sus.

molto rit.

B Help me be like Je - sus. Help me be like Je - sus.