

Commissioned by the North Carolina Singers  
in appreciation of Neal Eller and his 17 years of dedicated and inspired leadership

# Upon This Rock

Words and Music by  
**Pepper Choplin**

**Peter:** ...He looked at me and said, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." All at once, I knew there was no turning back. **(music begins)** This was no longer just an adventure, a break from my life as a fisherman. My life's work would be to follow the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

15/16

With rhythmic energy ♩ = ca. 80

Piano introduction in 15/16 time, marked *mp*. The music features a steady eighth-note bass line and a more active treble line with chords and single notes.

4/8 SA *mp*  
You are the Son, the

TB *mp*

Vocal and piano accompaniment for the first vocal line. The vocal parts (SA and TB) enter with the lyrics "You are the Son, the". The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note bass line and chords.

Piano accompaniment for the second vocal line, continuing the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment.

13 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*  
Son of the liv - ing God.

*cresc.* *mf* *dim.*

Vocal and piano accompaniment for the second vocal line. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics "Son of the living God." The piano accompaniment features dynamic markings of *cresc.*, *mf*, and *dim.*

Piano accompaniment for the final line, concluding with a *mf* dynamic marking.

17

*mp*

You are the Son, the Son of

*mp*

*mp*

21 17

God, the liv - ing God.

24

*mp*

*Solo*  
 I'll build My church.  
 Rock, this rock, I'll build My church, My church.

28

*cresc.* *mf*

Up - on this rock, I'll build My king -

*cresc.* *mf*

Up - on this rock, this rock, I'll build My king - dom here—

*cresc.* *mf*

*mf*

32

- dom on this earth. I'll build My church

up - on this earth. I'll build, I'll build My church, My church,

18

36

up - on this rock, this sol - id rock.

up - on this rock, this rock, this sol - id rock, this rock.

40

*mf*  
Up - on this rock, I'll build My church.

Rock, this rock, I'll build My church, My church.

44 *cresc.* *f*

Up - on this rock, I'll build My king -

*cresc.* *f*

Up - on this rock, this rock, I'll build My king - dom here.

*cresc.* *f*

48

dom on his earth. I'll build My church

up - on his earth. I'll build, I'll build My church, My church,

*dim.*

end Solo

up - on this rock, this sol - id rock.

up - on this rock, this rock, this sol - id rock, this rock.

*dim.*

*dim.*

SA

And we say, "You are the Christ, You are the Son of the liv - ing God.

TB

*f*

*f*

*dim.*

You are the Christ, You are the first be - got - ten Son, born from the love, —

*dim.*

62 *mf* *f*

— the love of heav - en. \_\_\_\_\_ And

*mf* *f*

*mf*

65

we are the church, and we will \_\_\_\_\_ and glo - ri - fy. We are the church, to be a

*f*

20

lv - ing sac - ri - ces, of - fered to You \_\_\_\_\_ through all we

*dim.*

71

*mf*

are.” Love, our love, our love for

Musical notation for the vocal line, measures 71-74. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: "are.” Love, our love, our love for".

*mf*

And so our love, our love for

*mf*

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment, measures 71-74. The left hand plays a steady bass line of quarter notes. The right hand plays chords and moving lines. The dynamic is *mf*.

75

Christ, for Christ, will be the cause, the cause, the rea - son

Musical notation for the vocal line, measures 75-78. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Christ, for Christ, will be the cause, the cause, the rea - son".

Christ will be the cause, the rea - son

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment, measures 75-78. The left hand plays a steady bass line. The right hand plays chords and moving lines.

why, why we live our days, our days, to walk in

Musical notation for the vocal line, measures 79-82. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "why, why we live our days, our days, to walk in".

why we live our days to walk in

Musical notation for the piano accompaniment, measures 79-82. The left hand plays a steady bass line. The right hand plays chords and moving lines.



83

faith, in faith, faith in the rock, the rock, the sol - id

faith, faith in the rock, the sol - id

87

Solo

(almost shouted)

*f*

rock, the rock. Shout it out now!

rock. "You are the Christ, You are the

*f* boldly!

90

Son of the liv - ing God. You are the Christ, You are the

92

first be - got - ten Son born from the love, the love of

95

heav - en. And we are the church, and we will

98

serve and glo - ri - fy. We are the church, to be a

100

liv - ing sac - ri - fice, of - fered to You

*dim.*

*dim.*

25

through all we are."

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

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105

Solo *mf*

Up - on this rock, I'll build My church.

A few Sopranos *mf* You are the Son,

*mf* Rock, this rock, I'll build My church, My church.

*mf*

109

Up on this rock, I'll build My king -

the Son of the liv - ing

Up on this rock, this rock, I'll build My king - dom here.

113

- dom on this earth. I'll build My church

God. You are the Son,

— up - on this earth. I'll build, I'll build My church, My church,

117

23

up on this rock, this sol - id rock.

the Son of the liv - ing God, —

up - on this rock this rock, this sol - id rock, this rock.

121

I'll build My church up - on this rock.  
the liv - ing God.  
I'll build My church, My church up - on this rock, this rock.

125

*(continue a few Sopranos)*

You are the Chris the the  
I'll build My church, My church. I'll build My

128 *dim.* *mp*

Son of God.

*dim.* *mp*

church. I'll build My church up -

*dim.* *mp*

*mp*

131

on this rock.

*p*