

## I love you Lord (Goodness of God)

Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson

Jenn Johnson wrote more than half of the words and music of 'I love you Lord' while driving to an appointment a few days after adopting a child. Thinking back over her life and 'God's faithfulness through the highs and lows' she was overwhelmed 'with emotion and thankfulness,' and began recording a first version on her phone during the journey. Turning later to Jason Ingram and Ben Fielding for help finishing it, Johnson notes the phrase 'I've known you as a father, I've known you as a friend' (v2) from this later writing session as 'one of the most precious lyrics of the whole song'. Ed Cash contributed the bridge section.

Johnson is cofounder, with her husband Brian, of Bethel Music based in Redding, California, a part of Bethel Church, established in 1952.

### Hear it here

Version with proficient band and congregation:

*Sung by Jenn Johnson live at Bethel Church* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0FBb6hnwTo>

Interview with authors and an acoustic version:

*Worship Together, New Song Café* <https://youtu.be/FHNHEECrAVY>

Jason Ingram's album solo version:

'Goodness of God' album <https://youtu.be/djQcN4t20I4>

### Scores // Lyrics // Chords

Lyrics and chords, free:

- Bethel Music website  
<https://bethelmusic.com/resources/goodness-of-god-radio-version/goodness-of-god>

Full scores from various online download sources, paid, including:

- [www.musicnotes.com](http://www.musicnotes.com), [www.praisecharts.com](http://www.praisecharts.com) (A $\flat$  standard, most have transpose facility)

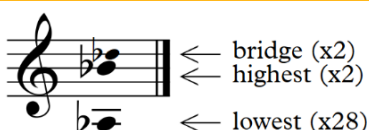
Books:

- Spring Harvest, *Unleashed Songbook*, #20
  - Piano and chords. Incorporates melody in right hand.*

### Introduction

The first half of the verse (to 'held in your hands') works well.

### Range ✓✓ (congregational, somewhat low)

Voice 

Recorded by its author in the key of G, and often set by publishers in A $\flat$  as standard, the range is broadly congregational but inhabits its very lower reaches. The key of A will be more comfortable, although it may be worthwhile experimenting with C or D and either omitting the bridge or singing it down an octave.

### Regularity ✓✓ Syncopation ✓✓ (extensive)

Those who learn by ear have an advantage – they will assimilate the rhythms more swiftly than those learning via the notation alone, which looks complicated due to a profusion of short notes and ties. If it

looks incomprehensible, try writing it out in doubled note lengths. Thus, the first line of the chorus as published:

Chorus

'Cause all my life\_ you have been faith - ful,

becomes this, in which it is perhaps easier to visualise and internalise the beats of the bar:

Chorus

'Cause all my life\_ you have been faith - ful,

This rhythm and melody feature three times, forming the greater part of the chorus. Conquer this and you're nearly there.

Everyone's learning process will benefit from listening to a good recording. If you do this using one of the links above, you will hear that even the authors sing slightly differing rhythms: they omit octave jumps, passing notes, and 'throwaway words' at the beginnings of some phrases. Take this as a prompt not to express *yourself* as a soloist; you are leading a congregation. Take it instead as authority to edit for the sake of community. While complexity usually makes for an enjoyable listening experience, it may foster a struggling congregation who are each singing a subtly different song until they have negotiated a singable version. If very complex rhythms are going to be simplified, then why not model simpler versions, and other judicious edits, from the off?

Verse

1. I love you Lord,\_\_\_

*v1 rhythm as recorded and published*

Verse

1. I love you Lord,

*v1 rhythm as likely to be sung congregationally*

### Listen out for

The short phrases and long rests in the verses give them a reflective, musing quality, expressing the sentiment of the words well, but be aware that gaps make congregations nervous. Expect an early entry of 'oh your mercy never fails me' in verse 1 and hold firm to the beat.

### Song set medley options

Songs that could flow well from this song or lead into it.

- Similar themes
  - All my hope on God is founded (StF 455)
  - Father of everlasting grace (StF 378)
  - Great is thy faithfulness (StF 51)
- Similar themes and tempo
  - Faithful One (StF 628)
  - The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want (Stuart Townend ver.) (StF 481)