

Ever Faithful to the Call

A Soldier's Hymn

by
Tom Lough

From the Composer

“Ever Faithful to the Call” was designed to honor the service of our US Army soldiers and to provide a prayer for them in the form of a musical tribute.

This hymn is the result of a wide collaborative effort. Thanks to all who assisted with its development, including active duty military chaplains, retired chaplains, military veterans of many eras, Blue Star and Gold Star families, ecclesiastical endorsers, church music professionals, friends, and family.

Special thanks to the Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist military chaplains who provided feedback.

This PDF file was designed to make it as easy as possible to share this music widely. In the pages that follow, versions of the hymn appear in three different keys. Select the version that fits best with the range of the singers.

In the supplemental section are pages with a descant arrangement for the last verse in three different keys as well as words for three additional verses.

To make a copymaster of any page, just select it and print it out. Then make as many photocopies as needed.

I hope this music will provide inspiration and be a blessing to those who sing it and for those who hear it. **To multiply these blessings, please feel free to post on YouTube a video of your choir or congregation singing the hymn.**

I also hope that it will become a traditional selection for use with Veterans Day services and observances, as well as for other related events.

Blessings,
Tom Lough
www.everfaithfultothecall.com

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Ever Faithful to the Call

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1. Hold them safe, O Lord, we pray,
 2. When their work comes to an end,
 3. Touch our vet - 'rans, Lord, we pray.
 4. Lord, we thank You grate - ful - ly

All our sold - iers in harm's way,
 Bring them home to us a - gain,
 Keep their minds at peace each day,
 For the ones who keep us free,

Keep - ing peace both night and day,
 As our praise and prayers a - scend,
 So their hearts can firm - ly stay
 May they al - ways bold - ly be

E - ver faith - ful to the Call.

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The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Hold them safe, O Lord, we pray,
 2. When their work comes to an end,
 3. Touch our vet - 'rans, Lord, we pray.
 4. Lord, we thank You grate - ful - ly

All our sold - iers in harm's way,
 Bring them home to us a - gain,
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E - ver faith - ful to the Call.

Guitar chords indicated above the notes include: A, E, F#m, D, E SUS, E, A, F#m, C#, F#m, B/D#, E, B, E, C#, F#m, E, A, D/F#, E/G#, A, F#m, D6, E, A.

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Chords: G, D, Em, C, D sus, D, G, Em, B, Em, A/C#, D, A, D, B, Em, D, G, C/E, D/F#, G, Em, C6, D, G

Lyrics:
 1. Hold them safe, O Lord, we pray,
 2. When their work comes to an end,
 3. Touch our vet - 'rans, Lord, we pray.
 4. Lord, we thank You grate - ful - ly
 All our sold - iers in harm's way,
 Bring them home to us a - gain,
 Keep their minds at peace each day,
 For the ones who keep us free,
 Keep - ing peace both night and day,
 As our praise and prayers a - scend,
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 May they al - ways bold - ly be
 E - ver faith - ful to the Call.

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Supplemental Section

Descants for Last Verse

Words for Additional Verses

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Congregation and choir

Lord, we thank You grate - ful - ly

Chords: B^b, F, Gm, E^b, F sus, F, B^b

For the ones who keep us free,

Chords: Gm, D, Gm, C/E, F, C, F

May they al - ways bold - ly be

Chords: D, Gm, F, B^b

E - ver faith - ful to the Call.

Chords: E^b/G, F/A, B^b, Gm, E^b6, F, Gm

Choir only

E - ver faith - ful to the Call.

Chords: Cm, B^b/D, B^b/F, Gm, E^b6, F, B^b

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Congregation and choir

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A musical system for the first system of the hymn. It consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, we thank You grate - ful - ly". Above the piano part, the chords are: A, E, F#m, D, E sus, E, A.

A musical system for the second system of the hymn. It consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "For the ones who keep us free,". Above the piano part, the chords are: F#m, C#, F#m, B/D#, E, B, E.

A musical system for the third system of the hymn. It consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "May they al - ways bold - ly be". Above the piano part, the chords are: C#, F#m, E, A.

A musical system for the fourth system of the hymn. It consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "E - ver faith - ful to the Call." Above the piano part, the chords are: D/F#, E/G#, A, F#m, D6, E, F#m.

Choir only

A musical system for the fifth system of the hymn, labeled "Choir only". It consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are: "E - ver faith - ful to the Call." Above the piano part, the chords are: Bm, A/C#, A/E, F#m, D6, E, A.

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THE CALL

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Congregation and choir

Lord, we thank You grate - ful - ly

For the ones who keep us free,

May they al - ways bold - ly be

E - ver faith - ful to the Call.

Choir only

E - ver faith - ful to the Call.

Additional verses for optional use

The following may be inserted
between verse 1 and verse 2 of the
arrangements on the preceding pages.

Bless our Army now on guard,
Hatred blocked and terror barred,
Helping us remain unscarred,
Ever faithful to the Call.

If they must advance to fight
Side by side in darkest night,
Lord, protect them with Your might,
Ever faithful to the Call.

Heal our wounded with Your hand.
Ease their pain by Your command.
Give them hope so they can stand
Ever faithful to the Call.

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Additional option: For a more universal
approach, “those defending” may be
substituted for “all our soldiers” in the
second line of verse 1.