

Freedom's

HOLY ♦ LIGHT

PATRIOTIC SERVICE GUIDE

The *Freedom's Holy Light Patriotic Service Guide* provides you with up to 18 minutes of music, prayers and Scripture narration for a patriotic service, plus a piano offertory. This includes a piano underscore that can last up to 9 minutes for a corporate prayer time. This versatile service can be led with as little as a capable pianist and worship leader, or with a praise team, praise band and/or a full SATB choir. If you don't have any musicians, lead the service with the stereo tracks, or even mix tracks with live performances.

Get as elaborate as you want. Do all the readings with one person or select different elders/deacons and/or members of the congregation for each reading (make sure the people you select have expression and are committed to practicing with the included demos.) Or, just play the MP3 vocal demos of the readings.

Open your service with my upbeat version of "America the Beautiful." Narration 1 sets the tone with select verses from Psalm 33 then flows into "God of Our Fathers."

Narration 2 begins with 2 Chronicles 7:14 and then the Underscore provides up to 9 minutes of keyboard background for a corporate prayer time. I suggest you preselect 3 people to pray. Ask them to pray for 2 minutes on a specific topic. For instance: servicemen and women from the congregation, political leaders, peace, etc. Instruct them to come to the stage on the last verse of "God of Our Fathers" and be ready to step up to the microphone to lead in prayer. The interactive keyboard Underscore 2 can be as long or as short as you need. If you're using the track for Underscore 2 simply fade it out from your soundboard if you don't need the entire 9 minutes.

Finish the set with "My Country Tis of Thee." Follow with the piano solo version of "My Country Tis of Thee" for an offertory special. After the sermon you might want to close with a popular praise song like Chris Tomlin's version of "God of This City."

With the many patriotic holidays like Memorial Day and Veteran's Day I'm sure you'll get much use out of the *Freedom's Holy Light Patriotic Service Guide* - either in whole or in parts.

Don Chapman
HymnCharts.com

Ideas for using the *Freedom's Holy Light Service Guide*:

>What you'll need to provide for your patriotic service:

1. One narrator and 2-3 people to lead in prayer. I suggest you preselect 3 people to pray. Ask them to pray for 2 minutes on a specific topic. For instance: servicemen and women from the congregation, political leaders, peace, etc. Instruct them to come to the stage on the last verse of "God of Our Fathers" and be ready to step up to the microphone to lead in prayer. Underscore 2 can be repeated as necessary although with suggested repeats it can go for about 9 minutes.

The Underscore 2 track gives you about 9 minutes of piano background for prayer. If your prayer time doesn't go that long simply do a gradual fade out on your soundboard.

2. Alternate Scripture. The KJV version is provided here for the Scripture readings (with a little tweaking on my part, changing "Thee" to "You" etc.), but you may have a favorite translation you'd rather use. Try "The Message" version for a contemporary reading.

>Tips for using the *Freedom's Holy Light Patriotic Service Guide*:

1. Scarce musicians. Burn a CD of the underscores and vocal demos and play it in lieu of using musicians. Use the individual MP3s to build your service or use the combined MP3s for better worship flow (songs and underscores are combined into a continuously playing MP3.)

2. Keyboard player. The entire service can be conducted with a single, capable pianist. Have a keyboard player accompany the narration by playing the underscores under the narration (the underscores have chords so a guitarist can play along, too.) You will want to have a short rehearsal with the pianist and narrators to make sure their timing is perfect.

3. Change keys. Finale files are provided which will allow you to change the key if you own Finale or Sibelius software. However, *I do not recommend changing the keys as the underscores are designed to transition you from song to song in the keys I've selected.*

4. Logo. A Photoshop file and TIFF file is included of the "Freedom's Holy Light" logo so you can reproduce it in your bulletin.

5. PowerPoint files. Standard definition PowerPoint files are provided for the songs. Widescreen blank slides are included if you want to build your own slides in that format.

6. Patriotic Backgrounds. Download additional FREE patriotic backgrounds from my website FreeWorshipBackgrounds.com.

How to use the *Freedom's Holy Light Patriotic Service Guide*:

Each part of this Service Guide is on one page. Print out all the pages for all your narrators so they can follow along and mark their parts.

The final page is a one page, at-a-glance overview so those involved can see the entire program.

If you're using the MP3 underscores, make sure the narrators have a chance to practice with them. Feel free to burn a CD or email the MP3s to them so they can make sure their narrations fit the music.

Dead space kills a worship service! Both the keyboard underscores and MP3 underscores are designed to help you flow directly into the next song.

Questions or comments? Contact us at h2ghelp@heartstogod.com.