



The Prayer Room

Brought to you by the Good News Bearers

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LISTEN, AND KEEP ON PLAYING

In our Gospel, today, God tells us, **“This is my beloved Son – Listen to him!”** The word ‘listen’ here has a sense of continuing action God is present and speaks to us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **We are to “keep on listening to him.”**

No one seems to know if the following story is fact or fiction. But, when read in light of today’s Bible texts, it is a poignant reminder of the presence and awesome power of God that is available to his children.

Polish-born Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941) was a world-renowned pianist, composer and statesman.



*Illustration 1:
Paderewski and a
Polish Boy. Poster for
Polish Relief Fund
(1940).*

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE." When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage.

In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in the bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative, experience.

The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played. Only the classic, 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.'

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our work can truly be beautiful. So, listen carefully... you may hear the voice of The Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit....Keep playing."



Dear Lord, I pray that, every day and in every way, you will help me to keep on listening to the voice of your Son, Jesus Christ. Open my ears as I pray and as I read and study your Word.

Make me alert to your voice when it calls me to some work in my faith community or in my life beyond our church doors. Don't let me ignore you when you tell me to “keep on playing”, to persevere in doing the work of your kingdom, no matter how insignificant it may seem to me.

Teach me to recognize the gifts you have given me, and help me to use them in the full knowledge that, with your help, they can do more than I can ever imagine. I ask this so that, as you have blessed me, I might be a blessing to others.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.