

Keeping Christmas

—a post-Christmas prayer
for solo voice and piano
with bits of "Silent Night" and
"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Constance Morgenstern

thoughtfully, ♩ = ca. 72

Voice

The tree's so dry, its needles

Piano

Ped.

5

rain as we pack ornaments away. Sure, gifts that ringed the tree will

5

10

stay, to make it into every day... But, what about those other presents, that the

10

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15



Christ - mas sea-son's sent us? _____

15

21



Like gifts we'll wear of brand-new clothes, will bright-er spir - its al-so show?

21

26



Or, could we play with— like good toys— some new de - signs for spread-ing

26

30

joy, or tend with - in us, through the nights, kin-dled hope from Beth - le -

34

hem's light... yes, hold with - in us, through the nights, flames of hope from Beth-le -

pp *mf* *rit.*

39

rit. **downshifting** ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 50$)

hem's light. We've gath-ered 'round your man-ger for a time, dear

p *rit.* *mp*

Keeping Christmas

44

hum-ble, God-sent Child of Peace, — but for the months which fol-low now, your

48

original tempo

words and lead - ing, too, we'll need. — As Christ-mas

original tempo

52

ends and year re - sets, Lord, keep us o - pen to ac cept,

52

56 *rit.*

as well as hope and joy and peace, for-give-ness, love, growth, pur-pose, heal-ing..., —

56 *rit.*

61

— gifts that re - new for week-day life, from you, God - with - Us, Je - sus Christ.

61

66 *mp*

Mm
(or Ah, fading out)

66 *pp mf rit.*