

Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire

SATB (with optional SSAA)

Words by James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Music by Sally DeFord

about $\text{♩} = 90$

The first system of the piano introduction is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand plays a melody of quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The system concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking.

The second system features the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 10 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "Prayer is the soul's sin - cere de - sire, Ut - tered or un - ex - pressed, The". The piano accompaniment continues with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a tempo marking of *a tempo*. The system ends at measure 16.

The third system continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 18 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "mo - tion of a hid - den fire that trem - bles in the breast,". The piano accompaniment continues with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The system ends at measure 24.

Soprano *mf* 26 28 30 32

Prayer is the bur - den of a sigh, The fall - ing of a tear, _____ The

Alto *mp* _____ *mf*

Oo, _____ Oo, _____ The

Tenor/Bass *mp* _____ *mf*

mf

8va - - - - - 8va - - - - - 8va - - - - - 8va - - - - -

34 36 38 40

up - ward glanc - ing of an eye when none but God is near. _____

up - ward glanc - ing of an eye when none but God is near. _____

42 44 46

mf *rit.*

48 *Soprano/Alto* *p* 50 52 54 56

Oo, Oo,

mp Prayer is the sim-plest form of speech that in-fant lips can try, Prayer, the sub-

Tenor/Bass

mp *a tempo*

58 60 62 64 *mf*

Oo, Oo, Oo, Prayer is the Chris-tian's

lim-est strains that reach the Maj-es-ty on high,

n.b.

8va *8va*

mf

66 68 70 72 74

vi-tal breath, The Chris-tian's na-tive air, His watch-word at the gates of

mf

8va *8va*

76 78 80 82

death; He en - ters heav'n with prayer.

Unison, or optional SSAA:

Soprano div.

84 86 88 90 92

p

Prayer is the con - trite sin - ner's voice, re - turn - ing from his

alto div.

rit. *p* *mp* *p a tempo*

94 96 98 100

Sop. *f*

Alto

Tenor

Bass

ways, While an - gels in their songs re - jice, And cry, "Be - hold, he

f

102 *rit.* 104 106 108 *mf*

prays!" _____ And cry, "Be - hold, he prays!" _____ Nor prayer is made on
a tempo

110 112 114 116

earth a - lone, The Ho - ly Spi - rit pleads, _____ And Je - sus at the

118 120 122 124 *f*

Fa - ther's throne for sin - ners in - ter - cedes. _____ O thou by whom we

126 128 130 132

come to God, The Life, the Truth, the Way! The path of prayer thy -

134 136 138 140

rit. self hast trod; Lord, teach us how to pray, O thou by whom we

(Tenor: how to pray,)

mp *freely*

142 144 *div.* 146 148

come to God, *mp* Lord, teach us how to pray.

rit.

Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire

Obbligato for C instrument (SATB version)

Words by James Montgomery (1771-1854)

The musical score is written for a C instrument in a SATB version. It consists of six staves of music, all in the key of B-flat major and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 90. The score includes various dynamics such as *mf*, *rit.*, and *a tempo*. Measure numbers are indicated throughout the score, including 2, 4, 6, 8, 31, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 80, 82, 84, 86, 108, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 144, 146, and 148. The music features a mix of quarter notes, half notes, and dotted half notes, with many notes beamed together in groups. There are several rests and repeat signs throughout the piece.