

Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire

SATB (with optional SSAA)

Words by James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Music by Sally DeFord

about $\text{♩} = 90$

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-8. The score is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The piano part begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. Measures 2-8 show a melodic line with some rests and a piano accompaniment of chords and moving lines. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present in measure 7.

Musical score for the second system, measures 9-16. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "Prayer is the soul's sin - cere de - sire, Ut - tered or un - ex - pressed, _____ The". The piano part continues with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a tempo marking of *a tempo*. The melody features a long note in measure 16.

Musical score for the third system, measures 17-24. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "mo - tion of a hid - den fire that trem - bles in the breast, _____". The piano part continues with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody features a long note in measure 24.

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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 *Sva* - - - - ; *Sva* - - - - ; *Sva* - - - - ; *Sva* - - - - ;

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 _____ *n.b.* Prayer is the Chris - tian's

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

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:

84 86 88 90 92

Soprano div.
p

Alto div.

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

rit. *p* *a tempo* (b)

94 96 98 100

Sop. *f*

Alto

Tenor

Bass

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

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. *Soprano/Alto unis. freely*
mp

self hast trod; Lord, teach us how to pray, O thou by whom we
 (Tenor: how to pray,)

freely
mp

rit.

142 144 *div.* 146 148

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

rit.