

# 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 *rit.* (ritardando) marking at the end.

Musical score for the second system, measures 9-16. The piano part is marked mezzo-piano (*mp*) and *a tempo*. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "Prayer is the soul's sin - cere de - sire, Ut - tered or un - ex - pressed, \_\_\_\_\_ The". The melody continues with quarter and half notes.

Musical score for the third system, measures 17-24. The piano part continues with a steady accompaniment. The vocal line includes the lyrics: "mo - tion of a hid - den fire that trem - bles in the breast, \_\_\_\_\_". The melody concludes with a half note G4.

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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*

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

*Alto*

*Tenor*

*Bass*

*f*

102 *rit.* 104 106 108 *mf*

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

*rit.* *mf*  
*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

*f*

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.*