

Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire

SATB (with optional SSAA)

Words by James Montgomery (1771-1854)
Music by Sally DeFord

about $\bullet = 98$

Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-8. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The piano part begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure numbers 2, 4, 6, and 8 are indicated above the staff. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present in measure 7.

Musical notation for the second system, measures 9-16. The vocal line begins 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 part continues with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a tempo marking of *a tempo*. Measure numbers 10, 12, 14, and 16 are indicated above the staff.

Musical notation 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. Measure numbers 18, 20, 22, and 24 are indicated above the staff.



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, _____

Sva *Sva*

mf

66 68 70 72 74

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

mf

Sva *Sva*

76 78 80 82

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

Unison, or optional SSAA:

84 86 88 90 92

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

alto div.

rit. p a tempo

94 96 98 100

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

Alto

Tenor

Bass

102 *rit.* 104 106 108 *mf*
 prays!" _____ And cry, "Be - hold, he prays!" _____ *a tempo* Nor prayer is made on

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

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

(Tenor: how to pray,)

rit. *mp* *freely*

rit. *mp* *freely*

Soprano/Alto unis.

142 144 *div.* 146 148

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

rit.

rit.