

Composed for and Performed at the Funeral Service for President Ronald Wilson Reagan held at Washington National Cathedral, June 11, 2004

O LOVE OF GOD, HOW STRONG AND TRUE

for SATB choir (divisi) and Congregation*, with organ accompaniment

Text by HORATIUS BONAR (1858), alt.

Music by C. HUBERT H. PARRY (1916)

Arranged by MICHAEL McCARTHY

Performance time: approx. 4:30

Solo or Sopranos in unison

mp

1. O love of God, how strong and true! E - ter - nal, and yet ev - er

4 5

new; un-com-pre-hend-ed and un-bought, Be-yond all knowl-edge and all thought.

8 9

(S.) O love of God, how deep and great! Far deep-er than man's deep-est

pp

S

A

Oo

T

B

12 hate; *mp* 13

Self-fed, self kin-dled, like the light, Change-less, e -

mp

Change-less, e -

*Congregational Part may be found on page 12.

poco rit.

15 17

S A
T B
(Choir I) ter - nal, in - fin - ite. **p*
change - less, e - ter - nal, change - less, e -

T B
(Choir II) *ppp* *
ternal, in - fin - ite. change - less, e - ter - nal, change - less, e -

18 Solo or Treble Choir *a tempo mf* 20

2. O heav'n - ly love, how pre - cious. *a tempo*
pp
Oo

ter - nal, in - fin - ite. *pp*
ter - nal, in - fin. Heav'n - ly love, pre - cious

21

still, in days of wea - ri - ness and ill, *pp* *Oo* *Oo* *Oo* *, mf*
S A
Oo *Oo* *Oo* in nights of
T B
still, days of wea - ri - ness and ill, *, mf*

*Note in measure 16 - the men of the choir should divide into two choirs (Choir I melody, Choir II harmony), with Choir I finishing Stanza 1 while Choir II sings the text for Stanza 2. All the men should join in singing Stanza 2 on beat 2 of measure 19.

†No breath.

24

pain and help - less - ness, to heal, to com - fort, and to

28

poco a poco cresc.
O wide em - brac - ing, won - drous love! We read you
poco a poco cresc.
bless! Em - brac - ing, won - drous love! we read you
poco a poco cresc.

32

in the sky a - bove, we read you in the earth be - be -
in the sky a - bove, we read you in the earth be -

33 *(senza rit.)*

low, in seas that swell and streams that

low, in seas that swell and streams that

low, in seas that swell and streams that

35 *f*

flow.

S
A

flow.

T
B

flow.

35 *f*

MANUAL

PEDAL

38 (unison) *mf* 39

3. We read you best in Him who came to bear for_

(unison) *mf*

(Reduce Sw. & Gt.) 39

mf

41 43

us the cross of shame; sent by the Fa - ther from on_

43

44

high, our life to live, our death to die. We read your

47

pow'r to bless and save, E'en in the dark - ness of the

47

50 51 *poco rit.*

grave; still more in re - sur-rec - tion light, we read the

Detailed description: This block shows the vocal line for measures 50 and 51. The music is in a key with two sharps (D major) and 4/4 time. Measure 50 contains the lyrics 'grave; still more in re - sur-rec - tion light, we read the'. Measure 51 is a continuation of the phrase. The tempo marking 'poco rit.' is placed above measure 51.

51 *poco rit.*

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 50 and 51. It consists of three staves: the grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass line. The piano part features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody. The tempo marking 'poco rit.' is placed above the grand staff.

53 *a tempo*

full - ness of your might.

Detailed description: This block shows the vocal line for measure 53. The music is in the same key and time signature. The lyrics are 'full - ness of your might.'. The tempo marking 'a tempo' is placed above the staff.

a tempo

f *ff*

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measure 53. It consists of three staves: the grand staff and a separate bass line. The piano part features chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings 'f' and 'ff' are present. The tempo marking 'a tempo' is placed above the grand staff.

57 (S. A.) *ff* 58

4. O love of God, our shield and stay

(unison) *ff*

†4. O love of God, our shield and stay through all the_

f

58

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is for Soprano and Alto, marked with a forte (ff) dynamic and includes the lyrics '4. O love of God, our shield and stay'. The middle staff is for Tenor and Bass, marked with a forte (ff) dynamic and includes the lyrics '†4. O love of God, our shield and stay through all the_'. The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment, with a forte (f) dynamic. A rehearsal mark '58' is placed above the second measure of the vocal staves.

60 62

through all the per-ils of our way!_ E - ter - nal love we

per - ils of our way! E - ter - nal love, in you we_

62

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is for Soprano and Alto, including the lyrics 'through all the per-ils of our way!_ E - ter - nal love we'. The middle staff is for Tenor and Bass, including the lyrics 'per - ils of our way! E - ter - nal love, in you we_'. The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment. A rehearsal mark '62' is placed above the second measure of the vocal staves.

†Stanza 4 may be sung with Congregation. See page 12 for Congregational Part.

(S. div.)

63

rest for - ev - er safe, for - ev - er blest. We will ex -

66

We will ex - alt you, will ev - er praise your alt you, God and King, and we will ev - er praise your

66

alt you, God and King, and we will ev - er praise your

69 *allargando* 70 *rit.*

name; ex - tol you ev' - ry day, and ev - er -

name; we will ex - tol you ev' - ry day, and ev - er -

allargando 70 *rit.*

72 73

more your praise pro - claim, your praise pro - claim!

more your praise pro - claim, and ev - er - more_ your praise pro - claim!

73 *ff*

