

The opening lines of this Christopher Idle text were inspired by the first three Gospels' description of our Lord praying in the garden of Gethsemane, and in the light of John 17:20-

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word...

The text weaves around the 'tree' theme found in many Scriptures about the cross and is especially meaningful during the days of Holy Week.

When You Prayed Beneath the Trees

by Christopher Idle

When you prayed beneath the trees,
it was for me, O Lord;
when you cried upon your knees,
how could it be, O Lord?
When in blood and sweat and tears,
you dismissed your final fears,
when you faced the soldiers' spears,
you stood for me, O Lord.

When their triumph looked complete,
it was for me, O Lord;
when it seemed like your defeat,
they could not see, O Lord!
When you faced the mob alone -
you were silent as a stone,
and a tree became your throne;
you came for me, O Lord.

When you stumbled up the road,
you walked for me, O Lord;
when you took your deadly load,
that heavy tree, O Lord;
when they lifted you on high,
and they nailed you up to die,
and when darkness filled the sky,
it was for me, O Lord.

When you spoke with kingly power,
it was for me, O Lord;
in that dread and destined hour,
you made me free, O Lord;
earth and heaven heard you shout,
death and hell were put to rout,
for the grave could not hold out;
you are for me, O Lord.

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15206 2

When You Prayed Beneath the Trees

3

For S.A.T.B. Voices with Piano Accompaniment

Words by
CHRISTOPHER IDLE

Music by
LLOYD LARSON

Pensively ♩ = ca. 80

p

T.B. Unison *p*

When you prayed be-neath the trees, it was for

me, O Lord; when you cried up-on your knees, how could it be, O

mp

Lord? When in blood and swear and tears, you dis-missed your fi-nal fears, when you

The musical score is for a hymn titled 'When You Prayed Beneath the Trees'. It is written for S.A.T.B. voices with piano accompaniment. The score is in 3/4 time and begins with a tempo marking of 'Pensively' and a metronome indication of 'ca. 80'. The piano part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The vocal parts enter with a T.B. Unison section marked *p*. The lyrics are: 'When you prayed be-neath the trees, it was for me, O Lord; when you cried up-on your knees, how could it be, O Lord? When in blood and swear and tears, you dis-missed your fi-nal fears, when you'. The score includes measures 5, 10, 15, and 20, marked with circled numbers. A large diagonal watermark 'PREVIEW COPY NOT FOR PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY' is overlaid on the score.

poco rit. (25) *a tempo*

faced the sol-diers' spears, you stood for me, O Lord.

poco rit. *a tempo*

S.A. unis. *mp*

When their tri - umph looked com -

mp

(30)

plete, it was for me, O Lord; when it seemed like your de -

(35) *div.* *mf*

feat, they could not see, O Lord! When you faced the mob a-

div. *mf*

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(40)

lone, you were si - lent as a stone, and a tree be-came your

(45) *poco rit.* *mp a tempo*

you came for me, throne; you came for me, for me, O Lord.

mp

poco rit. *mp a tempo*

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50 *cresc.*

SATB unis. *f poco rit.* *a tempo* 55

When you stum - bled up the road, you walked for me, O

poco rit. *a tempo*

S.A.
Lord; when you took your dead-ly load, that heav-y tree, O

T.B.

60 S.A. div. *ff*
Lord; when they lift - ed you on high, and they nailed you up to

T.B. div. *ff*

ff

die, and when dark - ness filled the sky, it was for me, for

me, O Lord.

molto rit. *mf* *mp freely* (70)

molto rit. *mf* *mp freely*

dim. e rit. *p*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The voice part consists of two staves. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature is common time (C). The score includes lyrics and performance markings. A large watermark 'HOPE Publishing Company Since 1892' is overlaid on the page. A diagonal watermark 'PREVIEW COPY NOT FOR PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY NOT FOR PERFORMANCE' is also present.

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