

PSALM 31: INTO YOUR HANDS

Ephrem Feeley

Plaintively (♩ = 70)

Oboe

mp

Descant:

Fa - ther, Fa-ther, in - to your hands — I com - mend my spi-rit.

Choir/
Assembly:

Fa - ther, Fa - ther, in-to your hands I com - mend my spi-rit.

Organ

for rehearsal only

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system is for the Oboe, starting with a *mp* dynamic and a tempo of 70 beats per minute. The second system is a Descant, followed by the vocal line for Choir/Assembly with lyrics: "Fa - ther, Fa-ther, in - to your hands — I com - mend my spi-rit." The third system is for the Organ, with lyrics: "Fa - ther, Fa - ther, in-to your hands I com - mend my spi-rit." The fourth system is also for the Organ, marked *for rehearsal only*. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures (4/4, 2/4, 4/4), and dynamic markings.

Composer's Notes:

This very simple setting of Psalm 31 for Good Friday is best sung unaccompanied, capturing the starkness of the day. The oboe part and descant should only be introduced once the refrain is well-established by the assembly. The choral parts underneath the verses provide harmonic support to the cantor, as well as giving a hint of blues chords, which, while not often heard in liturgical music, seem to be fitting for the text.

VERSES:

Ob. ⁵

Cantor: ⁵

Choir:

Ah. Ah.

Org. ⁵

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice, set me free.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord.

2. In the face all my foes
I am a reproach,
An object of scorn to my neighbours,
And of fear to my friends.

3. Those who see me in the street
Run far away from me.
I am like a dead man, forgotten in men's hearts,
Like a thing thrown away.

4. But as for me, I trust in you, O Lord.
I say, "You are my God."
My life is in your hands, deliver me
From the hands of those who hate me.

5. Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your love.
Be strong, let your heart take courage,
All who hope in the Lord.