

Original Text

[Let us pray,]
Grave robbing God,
We are stuck in the dry-boned graveyards of fear and death,
And there is a stench.
Yet you promise to reach into the depths of every despair
In order to bring us back to life again.
Breathe new life into the weary bones of your beloved children.
Wipe every tear from our weeping eyes.
Give us courage to rest in the joy of your abiding love,
To stumble into the light of each new day,
To throw off the graveclothes still clinging to our flesh,
And to dance.
Amen.

—Rev. John Schwehn

The Dry-Boned Graveyards

Prayer of the Day

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Rev. John Schwehn

Derek Jordan-Ouverson

Lamenting (♩ = ca. 68)

Solo *f ad lib.*
Grave — rob — bin'

Soprano *mf* *sfp* *f* *mp*
Let us Grave — rob - bin' God,

Alto *mf* *sfp* *f* *mp*
Let us Grave — rob - bin' God,

Tenor *mf* *sfp* *f* *mp*
Let us Grave — rob - bin' God,

Bass *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*
Let us pray. — Grave rob - bin' God,

Keyboard *for rehearsal only*
Lamenting (♩ = ca. 68)

Moderato (♩ = ca. 84)

6

God,

mf slightly separated *mp* We are

mf slightly separated *mp* Grave rob-bin' God, Grave rob-bin' God, Grave rob-bin' God, We are

mf slightly separated *mp* Grave rob-bin' God, Grave rob-bin' God, Grave rob-bin' God, We are

mf slightly separated *mp* Grave rob-bin' God, Grave rob-bin' God, Grave rob-bin' God, We are

Moderato (♩ = ca. 84)

10

S stuck in the dry-boned grave-yards of fear and death, of fear and

A stuck in the grave-yards of fear and death, of fear and

T stuck in the grave-yards of fear and death, of fear and

B stuck in the grave-yards of fear and death, of fear and

13

death, And there's a stench in the dry-boned grave-yards of fear and

death, And there's a stench in the grave-yards of fear and

death, And there's a stench in the grave-yards of fear and

death, And there's a stench in the grave-yards of fear and

16

death, of fear and death, Yet you promise to reach in -

death, of fear and death, Yet you promise to

death, of fear and death, Yet you promise to

death, of fear and death, Yet you promise to

19

to the depths — of e'ry de - spair of e'ry de - spair We are
reach in - to the depths of e'ry de - spair We are
reach in - to the depths of e'ry de - spair We are
reach in - to the depths of e'ry de - spair We are

The musical score for measures 19-21 features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in B-flat major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "to the depths — of e'ry de - spair of e'ry de - spair We are reach in - to the depths of e'ry de - spair We are reach in - to the depths of e'ry de - spair We are reach in - to the depths of e'ry de - spair We are". The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand.

22

stuck in the dry-boned grave - yards — of fear and death, of fear and *dim.*
stuck in the grave - yards of fear and death, of *dim.* fear and
stuck in the grave - yards of fear and death, of *dim.* fear and
stuck in the grave - yards of fear and death, of *dim.* fear and

The musical score for measures 22-24 features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in B-flat major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "stuck in the dry-boned grave - yards — of fear and death, of fear and dim. stuck in the grave - yards of fear and death, of dim. fear and stuck in the grave - yards of fear and death, of dim. fear and stuck in the grave - yards of fear and death, of dim. fear and". The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand.

25

mf

death, Breathe new life in - to the wea - ry bones of your be -

mf

death, Breathe new life in - to the bones of your be -

mf

death, Breathe new life in - to the bones of your be -

mf

death, Breathe new life in - to the bones of your be -

28

lov'd, of your be - lov'd, Wipe ev - ery tear from the

lov'd, of your be - lov'd, Wipe ev - ery tear from the weep - ing

lov'd, of your be - lov'd, Wipe ev - ery tear from the weep - ing

lov'd, of your be - lov'd, Wipe ev - ery tear from the weep - ing

31

weep - ing eyes — of your be - lov'd, of your be - lov'd, In or - der
eyes of your be - lov'd, of your be - lov'd, In or - der
eyes of your be - lov'd, of your be - lov'd, In or - der
eyes of your be - lov'd, of your be - lov'd, In or - der

The musical score for measures 31-33 is written for four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The vocal parts enter with the lyrics 'weep - ing eyes — of your be - lov'd, of your be - lov'd, In or - der'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

34

to bring us back to life a - gain. — to bring us back, to bring us
to bring us back to life, to bring us back, to bring us
to bring us back to life, to bring us back, to bring us
to bring us back to life, to bring us back, to bring us

The musical score for measures 34-36 continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics 'to bring us back to life a - gain. — to bring us back, to bring us'. The piano accompaniment continues with harmonic support. The score concludes with a final measure in measure 36.

37

back, Breathe new life in ____ to the wea-ry bones ____ of your be -

back, Breathe new life in - to the bones of your be -

back, Breathe new life in - to the bones of your be -

back, Breathe new life in - to the bones of your be -

40

dim. lov'd, of your be - lov'd, *f* Give us cour - age to rest in the

dim. lov'd, of your be - lov'd, *f* Give us cour - age to

dim. lov'd, of your be - lov'd, *f* Give us cour - age to rest in the

dim. lov'd, of your be - lov'd, *f* Give us cour - age to

43

joy of your love, of your love, To throw
rest in the joy of your love, To throw
joy of your joy of your love, To throw
rest in the joy of your love, To throw

This musical system contains measures 43, 44, and 45. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "joy of your love, of your love, To throw" for the first staff, "rest in the joy of your love, To throw" for the second, "joy of your joy of your love, To throw" for the third, and "rest in the joy of your love, To throw" for the fourth. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

46

off the grave-clothes cling - ing still to our flesh, still to our
off the grave-clothes cling - ing still to our flesh, still to our
off the grave-clothes cling - ing still to our flesh, still to our
off the grave-clothes cling - ing still to our flesh, still to our

This musical system contains measures 46, 47, 48, and 49. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "off the grave-clothes cling - ing still to our flesh, still to our" for the first staff, "off the grave-clothes cling - ing still to our flesh, still to our" for the second, "off the grave-clothes cling - ing still to our flesh, still to our" for the third, and "off the grave-clothes cling - ing still to our flesh, still to our" for the fourth. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

49

flesh, To stum - ble in - to the light of each new day, of each new

flesh, To stum - ble in - to the light of each new day, of each new

flesh, To stum - ble in - to the light of each new day, of each new

flesh, To stum - ble in - to the light of each new day, of each new

53

day, Give us cour-age to rest in the joy of your love, of your

day, Give us cour - age to rest in the joy of your

day, Give us cour - age to rest in the joy of your

day, Give us cour - age to rest in the joy of your

rit. poco a poco

Freely

57 *mp* *mf cresc.*

love, And to dance. And to dance. dance.

mp cresc.

love, And to dance. And to dance. And to

mp *mf cresc.*

love, And to dance. And to dance. dance.

mp cresc.

love, And to dance. And to dance. And to

rit. poco a poco Freely

61 *(cresc.) f rall.*

And to dance. A - men.

(cresc.) f

dance. And to dance. A - men.

(cresc.) f

And to dance. A - men.

(cresc.) f

dance. And to dance. A - men.

rall.