



Therefore I Will Hope

by Alex Gartner



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About the composer

Alex Gartner (b. 1990) is the Artistic & Executive Director of the Pensacola Children's Chorus in Pensacola, FL, and has worked previously as the Assistant Director of the Cincinnati Youth Choir in his native Cincinnati, Ohio. He serves ACDA as the Southern Region R&R Chair for Children's and Community Youth, and he is also a member of the National Arts Education Advisory Committee with Americans for the Arts. Gartner earned his degrees in music education from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the University of Florida.

About the poet

Jan Richardson is an artist, writer, and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. She serves as director of The Wellspring Studio, LLC, and has traveled widely as a retreat leader and conference speaker. Known for her distinctive intertwining of word and image, Jan's work has attracted an international audience drawn to the welcoming and imaginative spaces that she creates in her books, online blogs, and public events.

Therefore I Will Hope

I have no cause to linger beside this place of death,

no reason to keep vigil where life has left,

and yet I cannot go, cannot bring myself to cleave myself from here,

can only pray
that this waiting
might yet be a blessing
and this grieving
yet a blessing
and this stone
yet a blessing
and this silence
yet a blessing
still.

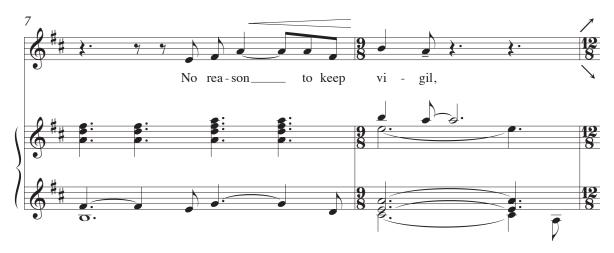
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Jan Richardson Additional Text by Alex Gartner Alex Gartner







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