

PAUL WINCHESTER

# ON FAITH

Bass, Baritone, and Organ

# Notes

In my work in church music and observation of the American political spectrum, I have seen a wide variety of expressions of personal faith, including several that I find troubling. One common theme I see in what I consider to be troubling expressions of faith is an understanding (or, at least, the outward appearance of such) of God as a force that can be invoked to influence human events and that those who would invoke it claim to understand the will of that force as a morality beyond the evidence of human moral observation. It often seems convenient, in such an expression, that the moral will of God, in that believer's mind, is the same as the moral will of that same believer.

"On Faith" is a telling of what, in my view, is a maturation from such a faith into one that is more humble and loving. It begins in selfish anger, as the believer invokes God to defeat and inflict extreme punishment upon his enemies. As such invocations go unfulfilled, the believer is left feeling abandoned; he is forced to reckon with the possibility that his moral will does not align with the moral will of God. This drives the believer into a deep and desperate depression. In the end, the believer matures into a more open sense of the divine and of the humanity around him. He allows bitterness to depart from him and seeks to forgive and love rather than to hate and conquer.

The truth of the matter is that we have elements of each of these expressions in us at all times, not only in faith, but in all our moral interactions. But, it is contingent upon us and on our morality to strive for the third; to put away selfish anger and self-pitying desperation and move toward humility, grace, and understanding.

# Text

## I WILL SING OF THY POWER...

Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me.  
Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men.  
O Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen:  
be not merciful to any wicked transgressors.  
The God of my mercy shall prevent me:  
God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies.  
Scatter them by thy power; and bring them down.  
Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be:  
and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth.  
But I will sing of thy power; for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble.  
Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defense and the God of my mercy.

- from Psalm 59  
Adapted by Paul Winchester

## MY HOPE IS PERISHED...

I am the the man that hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.  
He hath led me, and brought me into darkness, but not into light.  
My flesh and my skin hath he made old; he hath broken my bones.  
He hath set me in dark places,  
He hath made my chain heavy.  
When I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.  
He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces:  
He hath broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes.  
And I said, my hope is perished from the Lord.

- from Lamentations 3: 1–18  
Adapted by Paul Winchester

## LET ALL BITTERNESS DEPART FROM YOU...

Let all bitterness depart from you, and wrath be put away from you.  
And be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
even as God in Christ (love) hath forgiven you.

- Ephesians 4: 31–32  
Adapted by Paul Winchester

to Michael

# ON FAITH

I will sing of thy power...

## OPENING REGISTRATION:

SWELL: 8' and 4' Foundations, Flutes, and Reeds; 8' Trumpet; Mixture  
GREAT: 8' and 4' Foundations, Flutes, and Strings; 8' Reeds; Mixture  
CHOIR: 8' Flutes  
PEDAL: 8' and 16' Foundations and Strings

from Psalm 59

Paul Winchester

Adapted by Paul Winchester

**Grand and Violent** ♩ = 126

The musical score is arranged for Baritone, Bass, and Organ. The tempo is marked 'Grand and Violent' with a quarter note equal to 126 beats. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature starts in 5/4 and changes to 4/4 and 3/4. The organ part features triplets and a 'GT.' (Great) registration. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'De - li-ver me from mine e - ne - mies, O my God:'. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo).

Baritone

Bass

Organ

*f* GT.

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*

e - ne - mies, O my God:

e - ne - mies, O my God:

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Lord God of hosts, the God of

*mf*

O Lord God of hosts,

*p*

Is - ra - el, a - wake, a - wake, a - wake to

the God of Is - ra - el a - wake, a - wake, a - wake to

*f*

*f*

R.H. GT.

*mf*

*mf*

vi - sit all the hea - then: be not mer - ci - ful to

vi - sit all the hea - then: be not mer - ci - ful to

*f*

*f*

*mp* SW.

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*mf* *cresc.*

*mf* *mp* Scat - ter them by thy power; and bring them down.

sire u-pon mine e-ne-mies.

3

*f*

Con - sume them, con - sume them, con - sume

*f*

Con - sume them, con - sume them, con -

*secco*

*poco rit.*

them in wrath, that they may not be: and let them

sume them in wrath, that they may not be: and let them

*mf* + Tpt. *mf* *f* *f* GT.



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poco rit. Broad ♩ = 108

87

thee will I sing: for God is my de - fense

thee will I sing: for God is my de - fense

*ff*

*mf*

*ff*

93

and the God of my mer - cy.

and the God of my mer - cy.

*pp*

*pp*

*ppp* CH.

Tempo I ♩ = 126  
accel. al fine

98

*f* GT.

# My hope is perished...

## OPENING REGISTRATION:

SWELL: 8' Flute and Soft Reed

GREAT: 8' and 4' Foundations, Strings, and Reeds; 8' Trumpet; Mixture

CHOIR: 8' Strings and Flutes

PEDAL: 8' and 16' Foundations, Flutes, and Strings

from Lamentations 3:1-18  
Adapted by Paul Winchester

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**Dismal** ♩ = 50

*f* GT. *mp* SW. (half-open)

Organ

CH. *p*

6 Bar. *p*

I am the man that hath seen af-flic-tion by the rod of His wrath.

*p* (closed) play only if needed *p* CH.

12 Bass *p*

He hath led me, and brought me in - to dark-ness, but not in-to

*f* GT. (CH.) CH. *p*

18 Bar. *p* *mp* *p*

(Bass) My flesh and skin hath He made old; He hath

light. My flesh and skin hath He made old; He hath

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# Let all bitterness depart from you...

**OPENING REGISTRATION:** SWELL: 8' Flutes and Strings  
PEDAL: 8' and 16' Flutes and Strings

Ephesians 4: 31–32

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♩ = c. 100

Organ

sw. *p*

*rubato*

6

*p*

Let all bit - ter - ness de - part from you, Let all bit - ter -

*p*

Let all bit - ter ness de - part from you, Let all bit - ter -

12

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

ness de - part from you, and wrath be put a - way from you.

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

ness de - part from you, and wrath be put a - way from you.

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32 *rit.* *p* **Broader** ♩ = c. 86 *rit.* *p* 16

e - ven as God, in Christ, hath for-gi-ven  
(love) (love)

*p* *pp*  
- Soft Reed - Mixture - Strings

38 *a tempo* ♩ = c. 100 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

you, for-gi - ven you, for-gi - ven  
you, for-gi - ven you, for-gi - ven

*p* + Strings *p*

43 *pp* *rall. al fine*

you. *pp*  
you.