

# Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire

*Calmly* ♩ = 66-76

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Calmly' with a metronome indication of 66-76 beats per minute. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four verses of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four verses. Each verse is written in a four-part setting, with the lyrics printed below the corresponding vocal lines. The lyrics are: 1. Prayer is the soul's sin - cere de - sire, Ut - tered or un - ex - pressed, 2. Prayer is the bur - den of a sigh, The fall - ing of a tear, 3. Prayer is the sim - plest form of speech That in - fant lips can try; 4. Prayer is the Christ - ian's vi - tal breath, The Christ - ian's na - tive air, The mo - tion of a hid - den fire That trem - bles in the breast. The up - ward glanc - ing of an eye When none but God is near. Prayer, the sub - lim - est strains that reach The Maj - es - ty on high. His watch - word at the gates of death; He en - ters heav'n with prayer.

5. Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,  
Returning from his ways,  
While angels in their songs rejoice  
And cry, "Behold, he prays!"

6. The Saints in prayer appear as one  
In word and deed and mind,  
While with the Father and the Son  
Their fellowship they find.

7. Nor prayer is made on earth alone:  
The Holy Spirit pleads,  
And Jesus at the Father's throne  
For sinners intercedes.

8. O thou by whom we come to God,  
The Life, the Truth, the Way!  
The path of prayer thyself hast trod;  
Lord, teach us how to pray.

*Text:* James Montgomery, 1771-1854  
*Music:* George Kingsley, 1811-1884

ELIZABETHTOWN  
C.M.