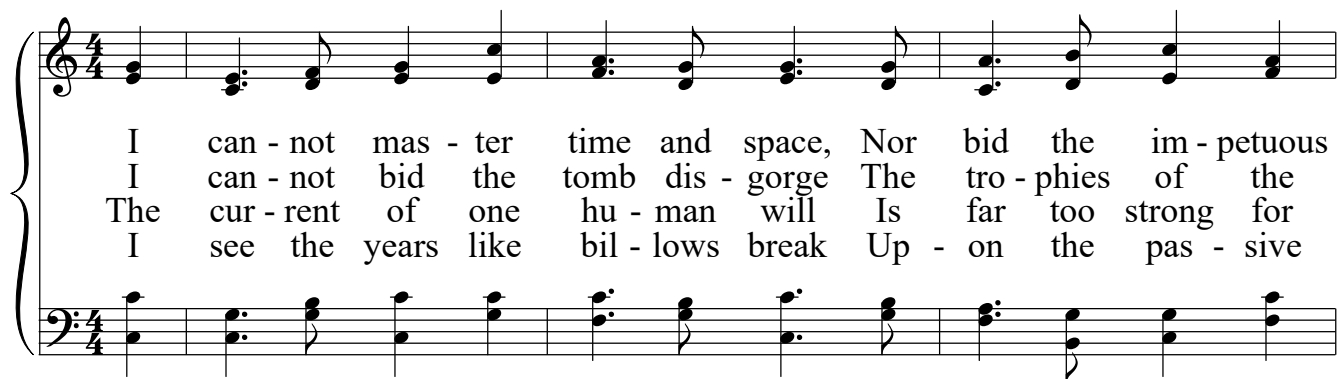


The Silence of Faith - SILENT FAITH (SWERD)

Horatius Bonar; From Hymns of the Nativity...

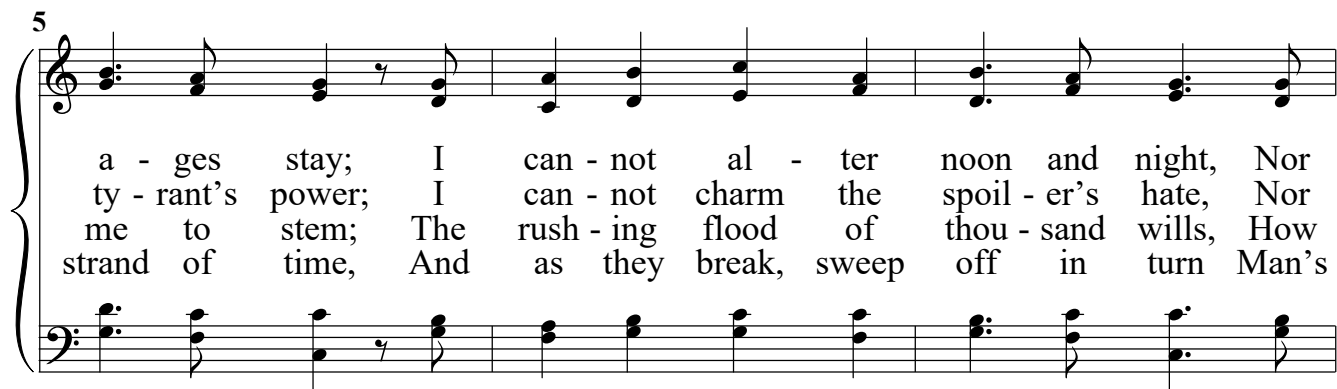
Scott Werdebaugh, b. 1951

Ponderingly thoughtful (♩=120)



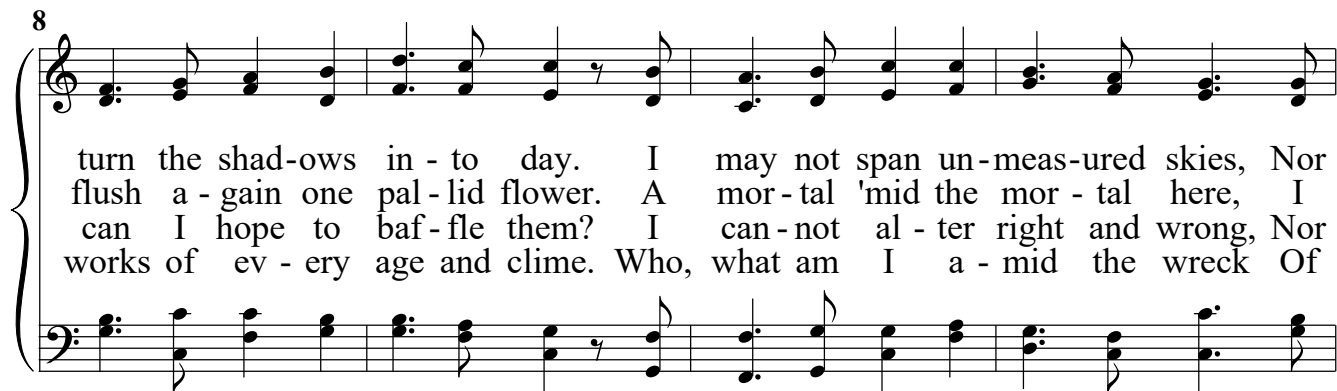
I can - not mas - ter time and space, Nor bid the im - petuous
I can - not bid the tomb dis - gorge The tro - phies of the
The cur - rent of one hu - man will Is far too strong for
I see the years like bil - lows break Up - on the pas - sive

5



a - ges stay; I can - not al - ter noon and night, Nor
ty - rant's power; I can - not charm the spoil - er's hate, Nor
me to stem; The rush - ing flood of thou - sand wills, How
strand of time, And as they break, sweep off in turn Man's

8



turn the shad - ows in - to day. I may not span un - meas - ured skies, Nor
flush a - gain one pal - lid flower. A mor - tal 'mid the mor - tal here, I
can I hope to baf - fle them? I can - not al - ter right and wrong, Nor
works of ev - ery age and clime. Who, what am I a - mid the wreck Of

12

grasp the Pleia-des in my hand; The far and near, the great and small I
mourn the si - lent, sad de - cay Of all that makes this world so fair, But
change the false in - to the true; I can-not judge the Judge of all, His
all this beau-ty, love, and power, O'er which I weep, but whose de - cay I

16

see, but can - not un - der - stand. I help - less sit, hemmed
can - not bid one ra - diance stay. Fain would I loose the
thoughts, His ways, His words re - view. He speaks! I hear! O
can - not hin - der for an hour? The true is nev - er

19

in by power And will su - per - ior to my own, En-com-passed round by
chain of ill That fet-ters this sad, tor-tured earth, Yet I can but its
voice su-preme, Be-yond all voic-es sweet, sub - lime! He the e - ter - nal,
ob - so - lete, The nev - er old is nev - er stale; I guard the gold of

23

laws un - seen, Con - trolled by all, con - trol - ling none; Yet
wrongs and woes Com - mit to Him who gave it birth. And
wise and true, I but be - mist - ed child of time. To
an - cient mines, And gath - er gems, though few and pale; I

26

I can lean on Him who guides The sky, and sea, and
 to the Liv - ing One I fly For health and im - mor -
 Him in fool - ish - ness I come, Be - fore Him rev - er -
 call them fair— as fair as when They dropped from God's bright

29

faith - ful tides.
 - tal - i - ty.
 - ent and dumb.
 heav'n for men.

(4)