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Was Ever Love Like Thine?

Paul A. Aitken

SATB a capella

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Dr. Paul A. Aitken is Director of Music & Worship Arts at the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, Idaho where he oversees twenty ensembles and a professional staff spanning two campuses. He is also artistic director and conductor of the McCall Concert Singers in McCall, Idaho.

The first ever winner of the ACDA Brock Student Composition Competition for his piece *Flanders Fields*, Aitken is sought after as both conductor and composer. He has been commissioned by organizations such as the American Guild of Organists, the State of Idaho, and the Boise Philharmonic Master Chorale. Aitken made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2010 conducting his major work, *And None Shall Be Afraid* with a choir of 200 and the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

A lifetime member of ACDA, Aitken has served at both Division and National levels, including the National Chair of Music in Worship. Dr. Aitken holds degrees from the University of Western Ontario, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and the University of Oklahoma.

Was Ever Love Like Thine?

*Behold the Savior of mankind
nailed to the shameful tree;
how vast the love that him inclined
to bleed and die for thee!*

*Hark how he groans! While nature shakes,
and earth's strong pillars bend!
The temple's veil in sunder breaks,
the solid marbles rend.*

*'Tis done! the precious ransom's paid!
"Receive my soul!" he cries;
see where he bows his sacred head!
He bows his head and dies!*

*But soon he'll break death's envious chain
and in full glory shine.
O Lamb of God, was ever pain,
was ever love like thine?*

To the Glory of God, and for the choirs and congregation of Boise's First United Methodist Church:
"The Cathedral of the Rockies."

Was Ever Love Like Thine?

SATB a cappella

Samuel Wesley (1662-1735)

Paul A. Aitken

Freely, with elegance and simplicity
p

Soprano
Be - hold the Sav - ior of man - kind nailed to the shame-ful

Alto
Be - hold the Sav - ior of man - kind nailed to the shame-ful

Tenor
p Gently
Sav - ior of man - kind nailed to the shame-ful

Bass
p Gently
Of man - kind nailed to the shame-ful

For rehearsal only

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tree; how vast the love that him in-clined to bleed and die for

tree; how vast the love that him in-clined to bleed, die for

tree; how vast the love that him in-clined to bleed, die for

tree; how vast the love that him in-clined to bleed, die for

4

8

thee, to bleed and die for thee!

thee, for thee! Hark how he groans! while

thee, for thee! Hark how he groans! while

thee, for thee! Hark how he groans! while

8

* staccatos are to be sung "slightly detached" and not pointed or abrupt.

12 *p* *mf*

And earth's strong pil-lars bend! The *mf*

na-ture shakes, and earth's strong pil-lars bend, they bend! The *mf*

8 na-ture shakes, and earth's strong pil - lars, pil - lars bend! The *mf*

na-ture shakes, and earth's strong pil - lars, pil - lars bend! The

12 *mf*

15 *mp*

tem - ple's veil in sun - der breaks, the sol - id mar-bles

tem - ple's veil in sun - der breaks, the sol - id mar-bles

8 tem - ple's veil in sun - der breaks, the sol - id mar-bles

tem - ple's veil in sun - der breaks, the sol - id mar-bles

15 *mp*

Slightly faster,
with hushed intensity

18 *p*

rend, the sol - id mar-bles rend.

rend, the sol - id mar-bles rend.

8 *p* *pp*

rend, the sol - id mar-bles rend. 'Tis

rend, the sol - id mar-bles rend. 'Tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

18

22 *p*

'Tis done, 'tis done! 'Tis done, 'tis done! the pre-cious

'Tis done, 'tis done! 'Tis done, 'tis done! the pre-cious

8 done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

22 *p* sim.

25 *mp*

ran-som's paid! 'Tis done, 'tis done! 'Tis done, 'tis done! the pre-cious

ran-som's paid! 'Tis done, 'tis done! 'Tis done, 'tis done! the pre-cious

done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

25 *mp*

28 *mf*

ran-som's paid! 'Tis done, 'tis done! 'Tis done, 'tis done! the pre-cious

ran-som's paid! 'Tis done, 'tis done! 'Tis done, 'tis done! the pre-cious

done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

28 *mf*

31 *crescendo*

ran-som's paid! "Re - ceive my soul! Re - ceive my soul! Re - ceive my

ran-som's paid! "Re - ceive my soul! Re - ceive my soul! Re - ceive my

done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis done, 'tis

31 *crescendo*

34 *f sub. p*

soul!" he cries; see where he bows, see where he bows his

soul!" he cries; see where he bows, see where he bows his

done, "Re-ceive my soul!" he cries; he bows, 'tis done, he bows, 'tis

done, "Re-ceive my soul!" he cries; he bows, 'tis done, he bows, 'tis

34 *f sub. p*

37 <

sa - cred head! See where he bows, see where he bows his

sa - cred head! See where he bows, see where he bows,

8 done, he bows, 'tis done, he bows, see where he bows his

done, he bows, 'tis done, he bows, see where he bows,

37

Majestically
ff

40 head bows his head and dies! But soon he'll break death's

bows his head and dies! But soon he'll break death's

8 head, bows his head and dies! But soon he'll break death's

bows his head and dies! But soon he'll break death's

40 Majestically
ff

44

en-vious chain and in full glo - ry shine. O

en-vious chain and in full glo - ry, glo - ry shine. O

en - vious chain and in full glo - ry, glo - ry shine. O

en - vious chain and in full glo - ry shine. O

44

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

47

Lamb of God, was ev - er pain, was ev - er love like

Lamb of God, was ev - er pain, was ev - er love like

Lamb of God, was ev - er pain, was ev - er love like

Lamb of God, was ev - er pain, was ev - er love like

47

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

50 *rit.* **Gently** *p* **As in the beginning** *p*

thine? Was ev - er love like thine? Be - hold the Sav - ior

thine? Was ev - er love like thine? Be - hold the Sav - ior

8 thine? Was ev - er love like thine? Sav - ior

thine? Was ev - er love like thine?

50 *rit.* *p* *p*

54

of man - kind nailed to the shame - ful tree; how

of man - kind nailed to the shame - ful tree; how

8 of man - kind nailed to the shame - ful tree; how

p

Of man - kind nailed to the shame - ful tree; how

54

57

vast the love that him in-clined to bleed and die for

vast the love that him in-clined to bleed, die for

vast the love that him in-clined to bleed, die for

vast the love that him in-clined to bleed, die for

57

60

thee, to bleed, to bleed and die for thee!

thee, to bleed, and die for thee!

thee, to bleed, and die for thee!

thee, to bleed, and die for thee!

60

pp

pp

pp

pp

rit.

pp

rit.