

Gwyneth Walker

Holy Water

A musical setting of the poem

by Raymond A. Foss

for SATB Chorus a capella

Holy Water

Duration 3:00

Commissioned by the College of Communications and the Arts, Seton Hall University
Dr. Jason Tamm, Director of Choral Activities
Premiered on May 6, 2019
South Orange Performing Arts Center, South Orange, New Jersey

Holy Water

by Raymond Foss (b. 1960)

The divine was revealed
made clean, prepared, anointed
not with a crown;
but with water
not in the Temple
but in the Jordan,
in the wilderness

Submitting to an act of trust,
a washing away of sin
in supplication and fulfillment
to begin his own journey
his mission, his fate
our savior.

~~~~~  
Water plays many roles in our lives. It is an agent of healing, washing away our sins. It is pain in the rivers of sorrow, the deep well of tears. It is the holy water, anointing us. It is the Source of Life. All comes from this simple element of water.

The text, brief as it is, speaks of two qualities: *water* (the universal, binding force) and the *journey* (the revealing of the divine, Christ's mission, his fate). Sections of movement focus on the central tonality of D Minor, with phrases that grow through range and dynamics. In contrast, *water* is expressed through gentle, static C Major tone clusters. The alternation between the *water* and the *journey* expressions are central to this musical setting.

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Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker and her works is available at

www.gwynethwalker.com

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Holy Water

for SATB Chorus

Poem by Raymond A. Foss* (b. 1960)
additional lyrics by Gwyneth Walker

Gwyneth Walker

The musical score is for a SATB Chorus and Piano. It is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The score is divided into two main sections. The first section is a 'Slowly, free introduction' for the vocalists, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics are: 'Ah, The di - vine was re - vealed, made'. The second section is marked 'Reverently' with a tempo of ♩ = 108 and a piano (*p*) dynamic. It begins with a boxed letter 'A' above the staff. The lyrics are: 'The di - vine was re - vealed, made'. The piano accompaniment also features a 'Slowly, free introduction' and then joins the 'Reverently' section. The piano part is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The vocal parts are for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The piano part is for Piano.

*Text used by permission of the poet

4

unis.

S clean, pre-pared, a - noint-ed not with a crown; but with wa - ter, —

A clean, pre-pared, a - noint-ed not with a crown; but with wa - ter, —

T clean, pre-pared, a - noint-ed not with a crown; but with wa - ter, —

B clean, pre-pared, a - noint-ed not with a crown; but with wa - ter, —

unis.

8

B

S — ho - ly wa - ter. Ah, — The di - vine was re-vealed

A — ho - ly wa - ter. — The di - vine was re-vealed

T — ho - ly wa - ter. — The di - vine was re-vealed

B — ho - ly wa - ter. — The di - vine was re-vealed

B

12 *unis. poco cresc.* *mf*

S not in the Tem - ple but in the Jor - dan, in the wil - der - ness.

A *poco cresc.* *mf*

T *poco cresc.* *mf*

B *poco cresc.* *unis.* *mf*

not in the Tem - ple but in the Jor - dan, in the wil - der - ness.

poco cresc. *mf*

15 *(mf)* *accel.* $\text{C} \text{♩} = 144 \text{ as water flowing}$ *p*

S Ah, Ah,

A *(mf)* *p*

T *p*

B *p*

Ah, Ah,

accel. $\text{C} \text{♩} = 144 \text{ as water flowing}$

19

S Ah, Ah,

A Ah, Ah,

T Ah, From the riv-er of sor-row,

B Ah, From the riv-er of sor-row,

23

S Ah, Source of Life...

A Ah, Source of Life...

T deep well of tears, comes the Source of Life...

B deep well of tears, comes the Source of Life...

27 **Slightly slower** *p* **a tempo** , ♩ = 144

S Ho - ly wa - ter... Ah,

A Ho - ly wa - ter... Ah,

T Ho - ly wa - ter... Ah, *unis. p*

B Ho - ly wa - ter... Ah, *p* B2 The di - **a tempo** , ♩ = 144

Slightly slower *p*

31 **D** *unis. p (as a background rhythm)*

S the di - vine in the wil - der - ness, the di -

A

T

B vine was re - vealed in the wil - der - ness. *(p)* B1 The di - vine was re - vealed in the

D

34

S vine in the wil-der-ness, the di - vine in the wil-der-ness, *unis. p*

A Sub -

T *p* The di - vine was re-vealed in the wil-der-ness. Sub -

B wil-der-ness. The di - vine was re-vealed in the wil-der-ness. Sub -

37 **E** *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 46)*

S the di - vine in the wil-der-ness, a wash - ing a-way of

A *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 46)* mit-ting to an act of trust, a wash - ing a-way of

T *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 46)* mit-ting to an act of trust, a wash - ing a-way of

B *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 46)* mit-ting to an act of trust, a wash - ing a-way of

E *cresc. poco a poco (to m. 46)*

40 *(cresc.)*

S
sin in sup - pli - ca - tion and ful - fill - ment to be -

A
(cresc.)
sin in sup - pli - ca - tion and ful - fill - ment to be -

T
(cresc.)
sin in sup - pli - ca - tion and ful - fill - ment to be -

B
unis. (cresc.)
sin in sup - pli - ca - tion and ful - fill - ment to be -

43 *(cresc.)*

S
gin his own jour - ney his mis - sion, his fate, our Sa - vior!

A
(cresc.)
gin his own jour - ney his mis - sion, his fate, our Sa - vior!

T
(cresc.)
gin his own jour - ney his mis - sion, his fate, our Sa - vior!

B
(cresc.)
gin his own jour - ney his mis - sion, his fate, our Sa - vior!

f rit.

F Slowly

47 *(f)* *p* tenderly *very tenderly*
 S "You are my Be - lov - ed Son, _____ ,
 Ah, _____ "You are my Be - lov - ed Son, Be - lov - ed Son."
(f) *p* tenderly *very tenderly*
 A Ah, _____ "You are my Be - lov - ed Son, Be - lov - ed Son."
unis. p tenderly *very tenderly*
 T _____ "You are my Be - lov - ed Son, Be - lov - ed Son."
unis. p tenderly *very tenderly*
 B _____ "You are my Be - lov - ed Son, Be - lov - ed Son."
F Slowly
(f) *p*

G a tempo ♩ = 144

52 *(p)*
 S Ah, _____ Ah, _____
(p)
 A Ah, _____ Ah, _____
(p)
 T Ah, _____ Ah, _____
(p)
 B Ah, _____ Ah, _____
G a tempo ♩ = 144
(p)

56 *cresc. poco a poco*

S Ah, Ah, *cresc. poco a poco*

A Ah, Ah, *cresc. poco a poco*

T From the riv-er of sor-row, from the deep well of tears, comes the *cresc. poco a poco*

B From the riv-er of sor-row, from the deep well of tears, comes the *cresc. poco a poco*

60 **H** *with strength and conviction*

S Source of Life! *f* The di-vine was re-vealed, *(f)*

A Source of Life! *f* The di-vine was re-vealed, *unis. (f)*

T Source of Life! *f* Ah, the di-vine was re-vealed, *unis. (f)*

B Source of Life! *f* Ah, the di-vine was re-vealed, *(f)*

H *with strength and conviction*

(cresc.) *f* *(f)*

64

S not with a crown; but with wa - ter,

A not with a crown; but with wa - ter,

T not with a crown; but with wa - ter, ho - ly

B not with a crown; but with wa - ter, ho - ly

unis. *p*

68 *rit. to end* *unis. p*

S Ah, Ah, wa - ter.

A Ah, wa - ter.

T wa - ter, wa - ter.

B wa - ter, wa - ter.

rit. to end