

A note from the composer:

I commissioned Dan Rourke to write a poem after hearing a particularly inspiring sermon given by the Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr. on January 29th, 2017 at Forest Hill Church in Cleveland Heights, OH. The sermon, titled *A Matter of the Heart*, was based on scriptural passages from Matthew 5:1-12 and 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.

This musical setting of Dan Rourke's poem can be sung in several ways, depending on the available singers:

- 1) SATB chorus with soloist
- 2) SSA chorus with soloist
- 3) As a solo throughout

Permission to adapt, copy and share with colleagues is granted.

Anne Wilson 2/28/2017

Love is the Only Response

a poem inspired by a sermon given by the Rev. Dr. John C. Lentz, Jr.,
senior pastor of Forest Hill Church, Cleveland Hts, Ohio

Dan Rourke

Anne Wilson (2017)

Andante espressivo solo voice *mp*

SA
TB

Andante espressivo

p

7 *poco cresc.*

fog gets so mur - ky I can't see, If my neigh-bor irks me, and my en - e - my scares me,

mp

11 all voices *mf* *mf* *mf*

Love Love Love is the on - ly re -

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

16 *mf* *mp* *rit.* *a tempo*

sponse. Love is the sole re - sponse. Love must be my soul's re - sponse.

mp *mf* *mp* *p* *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

21 *mp* *a tempo*

When I dwell on the word 'they' and

rit. *a tempo*

26 *poco cresc.*

not on the word 'we' When my neigh-bor seems so far, And my en - e - my next door,

mp

30 all voices *mf* *mf* *mf*

Love Love Love is the on - ly re -

35 *mf* *mp* *rit.* *a tempo* solo voice

sponse. Love is the sole re - sponse. Love must be my soul's re - sponse.

mp *mf* *mp* *p* *rit.* *a tempo* *mf*

40 solo voice *mf* *piu passionato* *piu mosso*

If I want to tear down_ and not build up, If I

rit. *piu passionato* *piu mosso* *p* *mp*

45 *poco cresc.*

want to close my eyes and sleep it all a - way, _____ When my prayers don't seem to mat-ter, and my

48 all voices *f*

thoughts be-come so help-less Love _____ Love _____ Love is the on-ly re-

54 solo voice *(breve) freely a tempo*

sponse. Love is the sole re - sponse. Love must be my soul's re - sponse.

59

poco piu mosso

cresc.

poco piu mosso

f

63

f risoluto

f risoluto

I must be-lieve when I can't I must trust when I

con forza

ff

67

don't True faith is more than a test And

True faith is more than a test

mf

stage whisper

72 *rit.* *mp* *molto rit.* *all voices*

char - i - ty must chal - lenge must
 char - i - ty must chal - lenge must

And char - i - ty must chal - lenge must

mf *rit.* *mp*

75 *solo voice* *all voices* *a tempo* *mp*

chal - lenge, must chal - lenge So, Love Love

chal - lenge, must chal - lenge

a tempo *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

81 *mp* *mp* *solo voice* *mp* *freely* *p*

Love is the on - ly re - sponse. Love is the sole re - sponse. Love must be my soul's re - sponse.

mp *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

slow roll