

for my father, Ambrose Farrell (1920–2010)

# I Waited for the Lord

Bernadette Farrell

Descant by Craig Kingsbury

Based on Psalm 40

**INTRO** (♩ = ca. 80)

Chords: D $\flat$  Eb/G A $\flat$  Eb/G Fm Fm/E $\flat$  D $\flat$  B $\flat$ m Ebsus4 Eb7 A $\flat$

Keyboard

Descant

6. O Lord, you will not hold your lov - ing help from me;

Soprano

Alto

1. I wait - ed for the Lord, and he stooped down to me. He  
2. And then in - to my mouth he placed a song of praise. How  
3. Your jus - tice I pro - claim, your mer - cy from a - bove. I  
4. You do not mea - sure faith by sac - ri - fice and fear; you  
5. But I am poor and weak, my dreams will fade a - way. And  
6. O Lord, you will not hold your lov - ing help from me; your

Tenor

Bass

Chords: A $\flat$  B $\flat$ m6 Cm7 A $\flat$  D $\flat$  Eb Cm7 Fm

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Solo Instrument in C (30114631) part is available online. Visit [ocp.org](http://ocp.org).

I WAITED FOR THE LORD (Keyboard/Choral), cont. (2)

6. your end - less love \_\_\_\_\_ my shel - ter \_\_\_\_\_ be.

(Fine)  
D.S.

1. put my feet on sol - id ground and set my spir - it free.  
 2. man - y now shall hear and know God's love through - out their days.  
 3. have not hid - den in my heart your jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 4. look to us in - stead to keep a con - stant, o - pen ear.  
 5. yet you hold them in your hands and ev - ery prayer re - pay.  
 6. mer - cy, truth and end - less love my shel - ter now shall be.

Db Eb/G Ab Eb/G Fm Fm/Eb Db Bbm Ebsus4 Eb7 Ab (Fine)  
D.S.

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# I Waited for the Lord

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on Psalm 40

Bernadette Farrell

**INTRO** (♩ = ca. 80)

Capo 1: (C) (D/F#) (G) (D/F#) (Em) (Em/D) (C) (Am) (Dsus4) (D7) (G)  
D $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G A $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G Fm Fm/E $\flat$  D $\flat$  B $\flat$ m E $\flat$ sus4 E $\flat$ 7 A $\flat$

1. I wait - ed for the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and he stooped down to me. \_\_\_\_\_
2. And then in - to my mouth \_\_\_\_\_ he placed a song of praise. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Your jus - tice I pro - claim, \_\_\_\_\_ your mer - cy from a - bove. \_\_\_\_\_
4. You do not mea - sure faith \_\_\_\_\_ by sac - ri - fice and fear; \_\_\_\_\_
5. But I am poor and weak, \_\_\_\_\_ my dreams will fade a - way. \_\_\_\_\_
6. O Lord, you will not hold \_\_\_\_\_ your lov - ing help from me; \_\_\_\_\_

(C) (D/F#) (G) (D/F#) (Em) (Em/D) (C) (Am) (Dsus4) (D7) (G)  
D $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G A $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G Fm Fm/E $\flat$  D $\flat$  B $\flat$ m E $\flat$ sus4 E $\flat$ 7 A $\flat$


1. He put my feet on \_\_\_\_\_ sol - id ground \_\_\_\_\_ and set \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ spir - it free.
2. How man - y now shall \_\_\_\_\_ hear and know \_\_\_\_\_ God's love \_\_\_\_\_ through - out \_\_\_\_\_ their days.
3. I have not hid - den \_\_\_\_\_ in my heart \_\_\_\_\_ your jus - tice, \_\_\_\_\_ truth, \_\_\_\_\_ and love.
4. you look to us in - stead to keep \_\_\_\_\_ a con - stant, \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen ear.
5. And yet you hold them \_\_\_\_\_ in your hands \_\_\_\_\_ and ev - ery \_\_\_\_\_ prayer \_\_\_\_\_ re - pay.
6. your mer - cy, truth and \_\_\_\_\_ end - less love \_\_\_\_\_ my shel - ter \_\_\_\_\_ now \_\_\_\_\_ shall be.

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## Assembly Edition

I WAITED FOR THE LORD

Bernadette Farrell



1. I wait-ed for the Lord, and he stooped down to me. He  
2. And then in - to my mouth he placed a song of praise. How  
3. Your jus - tice I pro - claim, your mer - cy from a - bove. I  
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1. put my feet on sol - id ground and set my spir - it free.  
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4. look to us in - stead to keep a con - stant, o - pen ear.  
5. yet you hold them in your hands and ev - ery prayer re - pay.  
6. mer - cy, truth and end - less love my shel - ter now shall be.

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## Composer Notes

Joseph Gelineau describes the Psalms as a “series of shouts” to God. We owe Pere Gelineau a deep debt of gratitude for his scholarly work on the psalms for the liturgy of Vatican II. Another great scholar, Walter Brueggemann, points to the vibrancy of the psalms for practical faith in today’s world and considers their “healing candor” for contemporary culture. In the liturgical calendar, Psalm 40 features often during Ordinary Time as well as at the Feast of the Annunciation, St. Nicholas, the Common of Saints and Pastors, religious profession and vocations.

For the last ten years of his life my father Ambrose suffered from Alzheimer’s disease and faced it with enormous courage. His ability to ‘name’ the condition brought dignity to an awful situation. He described a ‘cloud’ descending and a sense of two realities alongside each other. Somehow he continued typing words every day for my young daughter and was determined to leave a tangible sign of his love. As the disease took over we lost the person we knew so well. But when my parents’ 60th wedding anniversary approached, we decided to organize a small celebration. By this stage two years had gone by without recognition or communication. The anniversary (where we shared scripture, blessing and hymns from the 1948 wedding) became a time of miracles. Ambrose returned to us for a while, smiled and spoke his first (and final) two words: “very” and “wonderful.”