

First Sunday in Lent - Music Notes

February 21st, 2021

Our Prelude and Postlude for the First Sunday in Lent is a series of variations on the hymn tune "Heinlein," with the text "40 Days and 40 Nights." This set of variations is newly composed and was written by an Oberlin classmate of mine, Christa Rakich. The first 10 variations are heard as the Prelude and the final variation is the Postlude.

Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
Prowling beasts about Thy way;
Stones Thy pillow; earth Thy bed.

Should not we Thy sorrow share
And from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Strong with Thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press,
Jesus, Savior, hear our call!
Victor in the wilderness,
Grant we may not faint nor fall!

So shall we have peace divine:
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to Thee.

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
Ever constant by Thy side;
That with Thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.