

I COME TO DO YOUR WILL

Responsorial Song from Psalm 40 for Sunday 2B for Cantor, Assembly & Descant with Keyboard, Flute & Guitar

TONY BARR

Where must I find you? I come to do your will

I have waited for your word,. who has listened to my cry, put a new song into my mouth, endless music for you, my God.

You desired no sacrifice but obedience to your word. Sacrifice gives you no delight, with a pure heart I come to you.

It is written in the scroll: 'hear my word and do my will.'
Your commandments are my delight, write your law deep within my heart.

I proclaimed that you are just in the heart of the assembly. Full of joy was my song, O God, for you know how I long for you

Psalm 40 is a composite psalm, but essentially an individual song of thanksgiving for favors received, most importantly for rescue from illness and even the jaws of death.

vv 1-11 song of thanksgiving and trust

vv 12-17 song of lamentation

It is a compilation of two pre-existing psalms, where the lamentation shows a striking resemblance to Psalms 35, 70 and 71. The conflation is probably post-Exilic, as indicated by references to the Law in verses 7-8 of the full text.

- Tony Barr

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