

# How Firm a Foundation

## Hal H. Hopson

Commissioned by The White Bluff Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Georgia,  
to celebrate its 250th year as a church in the Reformed tradition  
and its 50th year as a Presbyterian church.

Anonymous 18<sup>th</sup> century text

Setting by Hal H. Hopson, based on an early American melody

*in a strong, steady 2* (♩ = ca. 66)

All in unison *mf*

How —

+ Handbells

*mf*

5

firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord, is — laid for your

*div.*

10

S.A. faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word! What more can be

T.B. *div.*



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An optional handbell part (19 bells, 3 octaves) is available separately (no. 405-685)  
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2

14

*all in unison*

said than to you God has said, to you who for

18

*S.A. f*

re - fuge to Je - sus have fled? When through fi - ery

Handbells tacet

23

tri - als your path - way shall lie. My grace, all suf -

27

fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply; the flame shall not

The musical score is presented in four systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature is G major (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'said than to you God has said, to you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled? When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie. My grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply; the flame shall not'. Performance instructions include 'all in unison' pointing to the vocal line at measure 14, 'S.A. f' (Solo Alto, forte) above the vocal line at measure 18, and 'Handbells tacet' above the piano accompaniment at measure 18. A large diagonal watermark 'FOR REVIEW ONLY' is overlaid across the middle of the page.

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3

31

hurt you; I on - ly de - sign your dross to con -

35

sume, and your gold to re - fine.

39

Solo, Ensemble, or first Sopranos *p*

When through the deep wa - ters I

*pp*

"Fear not, I will be near you. Fear not,

*pp*

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4  
45

call you to go, the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
I will be near you. Fear not, fear not, for

51

for I will be near you, your  
I am your God; I will be near you. Fear not,

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57 5

trou - bles to bless, and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis -

I will be near you. Fear fear not, I will be

*rit.*

62

tress." —

near you." *a tempo* *f* S.A. *f* "Fear —

How firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how

*f* *sim.*

*a tempo*

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6

68

not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed, for I am your

firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun -

73

God and will still give you aid.

da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how

78

I'll strength - en you, help you, and

firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun -

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7

83

cause you to stand, up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent  
da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how firm a foun - da - tion, how

88

hand."  
firm a foun - da - tion.

93

S.A. *ff*  
"The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose, I  
T.B. *ff*  
+ Handbells

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8

98

*div. f*

will not, I will not de - sert to it's foes; that soul, though all

103

hell should en - deav - or to shake, I'll nev - er, no

107

*ff*

nev - er. no nev - er for - sake."

*rit.*

*ff*

*rit.*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features three systems of music. The first system (measures 8-98) includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 103-107) continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 107-111) concludes the piece with a final vocal line and piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *div. f*, *ff*, and *rit.* (ritardando). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C).