

The Folded Napkin

Text based on John 20:4-8 (KJV)

for Vocal Trio (SSA) and Piano (2007-10)

Words & Music by
Donald M. Wilson

Duration = 2:45

The Folded Napkin (complete poem) by Donald M. Wilson (*)

- Refrain 1 The folded napkin:
 Is this a signal?
 Is this a message from our Lord?
 The folded linen:
 Is this a sign?
 Is it fulfillment of God's Word?
- Verse 1 It is our custom,
 When called from table,
 To fold the napkin and leave it there.
 It is a signal
 To tell the servant
 That we returneth to dine yet more.
- Refrain 2 If the folded napkin
 Were not a signal,
 And not a message from our Lord;
 If the folded linen
 Were not a sign,
 If just a head-cloth, nothing more:
- Verse 2 Then why did Jesus
 So often tell us
 We'd go to dwell with Him on high?
 The napkin tells us
 He's coming for us
 To take us home with Him by and by.
- Refrain 1 The folded napkin:
 Is this a signal?
 Is this a message from our Lord?
 The folded linen:
 Is this a sign?
 Is it fulfillment of God's Word?
- Verse 3 Oh what excitement!
 What joy sublime!
 To think Messiah standeth near!
 The folded napkin,
 It is a signal
 That He returneth to quell our fear!
- Coda The folded napkin,
 It is a signal
 That He returneth to quell our fear!

(*) with extreme gratitude and thanks to Dr. Dean Miller, Pastor Emeritus, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, CO, for having presented this topic to the membership of Lewis Avenue Baptist Church, Temperance, MI, in Spring 2006.

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John 20: 4-8 (KJV)

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Moderate ♩ = 96

Musical score for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, and Piano. The tempo is Moderate (♩ = 96). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked *mp*.

Musical score for Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto (A), and Piano (Pno.). The tempo is Moderate (♩ = 96). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked *simile*. A rehearsal mark 'A' is present at the beginning of the vocal lines.

S 1: *mp* Is this a mes - sage from our

S 2: *mp* Is this a sig - nal?

A: *mp* The fold - ed nap - kin: *mp* Is this a mes - sage from our

Musical score for Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto (A), and Piano (Pno.). The tempo is Moderate (♩ = 96). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked *simile*.

S 1: Lord? Is it ful - fill - ment of God's

S 2: The fold - ed lin - en: Is it ful - fill - ment of God's

A: Lord? Is this a sign? — Is it ful - fill - ment of God's

13 *mf*

S 1 Word? *mf* It is our cus - tom, When called from ta - ble. To fold the nap - kin and leave it

S 2 Word? *mf* It is our cus - tom, When called from ta - ble. To fold the nap - kin and leave it

A Word? It is our cus - tom, When called from ta - ble. To fold the nap - kin and leave it

Pno. *mf*

17

S 1 there. It is a sig - nal To tell the serv - ant That we re - turn - eth to dine yet

S 2 there. It is a sig - nal To tell the serv - ant That we re - turn - eth to dine yet

A there. It is a sig - nal To tell the serv - ant That we re - turn - eth to dine yet

Pno.

21

S 1 more.

S 2 more.

A more.

Pno.

The Folded Napkin

25 [B] Agitated (♩ = 100)

S 1 *mf* If the fold-ed nap-kin Were not a sig-nal, And not a mes-sage from our

S 2 *mf* If the fold-ed nap-kin Were not a sig-nal, And not a mes-sage from our

A *mf* If the fold-ed nap-kin Were not a sig-nal, And not a mes - sage from our

Pno. *mp* *mf*

29 Lord; If the folded lin-en Were not a sign, If just a headcloth, nothing

S 2 Lord; If the folded lin-en Were not a sign, If just a headcloth, nothing

A Lord; If the fold-ed lin-en Were not a sign, If just a head-cloth, noth - ing

Pno.

33 *f* more: *f* Then wny did Je - sus So of - ten tell us We'd go to dwell with Him on

S 2 more: *f* Then wny did Je - sus So of - ten tell us We'd go to dwell with Him on

A more: Then wny did Je - sus So of - ten tell us We'd go to dwell with Him on

Pno. *mf* *mf*

S 1 *mp* high? *mp* The nap-kin tells us He's com-ing for us To take us home with Him by and

S 2 *mp* high? *mp* The nap kin tells us He's com-ing for us To take us home with Him by and

A *mp* high? *mp* The nap-kin tells us He's com-ing for us To take us home with Him by and

Pno. *mp*

S 1 by.

S 2 by.

A by.

Pno.

C Tempo I

S 1 *p* The fold-ed nap - kin: Is this a sig - nal? Is this a mes - sage from our

S 2 *p* The fold-ed nap - kin: Is this a sig - nal? Is this a mes - sage from our

A *p* The fold-ed nap - kin: Is this a sig - nal? Is this a mes - sage from our

Pno. **C** Tempo I

49 *mp* *cresc.*

S 1 Lord? *mp* The fold - ed lin - en: Is this a sign? — Is it ful - fill - ment of God's

S 2 Lord? *mp* The fold - ed lin - en: Is this a sign? — Is it ful - fill - ment of God's

A Lord? *mp* The fold - ed lin - en: Is this a sign? — Is it ful - fill - ment of God's

Pno. *cresc.*

53 *f* *p*

S 1 Word? *f* Oh what ex - cite - ment! What — lime! *p* To think Mes -

S 2 Word? *f* Oh what ex - cite - ment! What joy sub-lime! *p* To think Mes -

A Word? *f* Oh what ex - cite - ment! What joy sub-lime! *p* To think Mes -

Pno. *f*

56 *mp* *mp*

S 1 si - - - ah stand - - - eth near! *mp* The fold - ed

S 2 si - - - ah stand - - - eth near! *mp* The fold ed

A si - - - ah stand - - - eth near! The fold - ed

Pno. *mp* *mp*

59

S 1
nap - kin, It is a sig - nal That He re - turn - eth to quell our

S 2
nap - kin, It is a sig - nal That He re - turn - eth to quell our

A
nap - kin, It is a sig - nal That He re - turn - eth to quell our

Pno.

mp

62

f **Slowing Down** (♩ = 80)

S 1
fear! The fold - ed nap - kin, It is a sig - nal That He re -

S 2
fear! The fold ed nap - kin, It is a sig - nal That He re -

A
fear! The fold - ed nap - kin, It is a sig - nal That He re -

Pno.

mf **Slowing Down** (♩ = 80)

mf

65

Tempo I (♩ = 96)

S 1
turn - eth to quell our fear!

S 2
turn - eth to quell our fear!

A
turn - eth to quell our fear!

Pno.

Tempo I (♩ = 96)