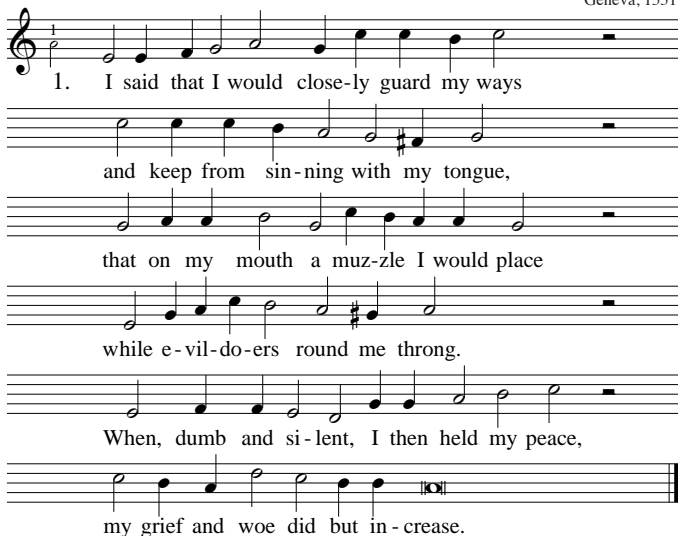


# PSALM 39

Play the Melody 

For the director of music. For Jeduthun. A psalm of David.

Geneva, 1551



1. I said that I would close-ly guard my ways  
and keep from sin-ning with my tongue,  
that on my mouth a muz-zle I would place  
while e-vil-do-ers round me throng.  
When, dumb and si-lent, I then held my peace,  
my grief and woe did but in-crease.

2. *My heart grew hot, within me set ablaze.  
I cried, "LORD, let me know my end.  
Reveal to me the measure of my days,  
for as mere handbreadths You extend  
my span of fleeting days, so frail and light.  
It is as nothing in Your sight.*
3. *"Surely a man is nothing but a breath;  
he as a shadow goes his way.  
Surely in vain he struggles till his death;  
he piles up riches while he may,  
not knowing who will later gather them.  
His striving will not profit him.*

## Psalm 39

4. "What is it that I now shall wait for, LORD?  
In You I put my hope and trust.  
From all my sins de-liv-er-ance af-ford,  
and let me not by scorn be crushed.  
My mouth I do not o-pen, for I see  
it is Your hand that chas-tens me.

5. "Remove from me the chastisement I fear,  
lest I should perish through Your wrath.  
At Your rebukes, that which a man holds dear  
will fade and shrivel like a moth.  
For man is merely breath and vanity;  
yes, like a puff of wind is he.
6. "LORD, hear my cry, give ear to my request;  
do not my bitter tears ignore.  
For I with You am but a passing guest,  
as all my fathers were before.  
O turn away from me Your watchful eye  
and give me joy before I die."