

Poetry, Reflection & Song to begin the Season of Advent

# The O Antiphons



Ant.  
2. D

**O** Sa-pi-énti-a, \* quae ex óre Altíssimi prod-  
sti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fórti-ter su-ávi-  
ter disponénsque ómni- a : véni ad docéndum nos  
ví-am prudénti-ae. E u o u a e.

The Coming of Love

The Coming of Light

# Poetry, Reflection & Song to begin the Season of Advent

December 6, 2009, 7<sup>pm</sup>  
Grace Episcopal Church  
Vicar: Bill Harper  
Music & Arts: Ann Strickland



Monks Singing, Italy, 1420

Welcome to Grace. We hope that this service will provide a quiet time of reflection through music, poetry and prayer in the heart of this Advent season.

The O Antiphons refer to the seven \*antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. The exact origin of the O Antiphons is not known, but they are referenced in liturgies from the late 5th century. Each “O” highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel* (O God is with us). Each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

According to Professor Robert Greenberg of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If you start with the last title and take the first letter of each one Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia—the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning “Tomorrow I will come.” The antiphon texts are the basis for the verses of the beloved Advent hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.

The Grace Church O Antiphon service is a reworking of a more traditional service that uses The Great O Antiphons in sequence to form its basic structure. Each part of our service begins with the Music Circle chanting the antiphon in Latin, followed by a poem that relates to the original Isaiah passage, a song, and then a prayer. Bill Harper will also offer a reflection on the season.

A big thank you to the Rev. Malcolm Guite of Cambridge, UK for graciously allowing us to use his O Antiphon sonnets for our service tonight. [malcolmguite.com](http://malcolmguite.com)

\*antiphons: devotional compositions sung responsively as part of a liturgy.  
*Catholic Education Resource Center, Fr. William Saunders  
and liturgy notes from St. Mark's Cathedral O Antiphons service*

# Incense Rite, Procession & Opening Hymn

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## Opening Song: Creator of the Stars of Night

Please stand as we sing



Verse 1 Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light;  
O God Deliver of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

Verse 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you gave us stars in splendor bright;  
The moon to guide our pilgrim way, and bring us to your glorious day.

Verse 3 Deep in the darkness we begin, the dark outside the deep within.  
So now ignite a single flame, the shadows form let light remain.

Verse 4 O breath of life, eternal fire, present now in us and inspire;  
O boundless faith and courage clear, we shine your light to banish fear.

Verse 5 Your wisdom with full promise burns, we give our promise in return;  
Compassion's warmth your love reveals, we give to others and are healed.

Verse 6 O come our root, the light, our key, the wisdom for us all to see.  
All heaven rings to wake the earth, as angels sing Love comes to birth.

Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4. Text: Latin, 9th c.,  
with new verses by Scott Lawrence and Ann Strickland

## Greeting and Opening Prayer

Leader Holy God, bless us this night and during this season of Advent that we may become more aware of your presence.

All **May we see you in each other, hear you in our music and hold you in our hearts. Amen**



# Sapientia

## Wisdom



Beginning of the Gospel of John, eleventh century lectionary

### Antiphon I

*Please be seated.*

○ Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviter disponesque omnia; veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

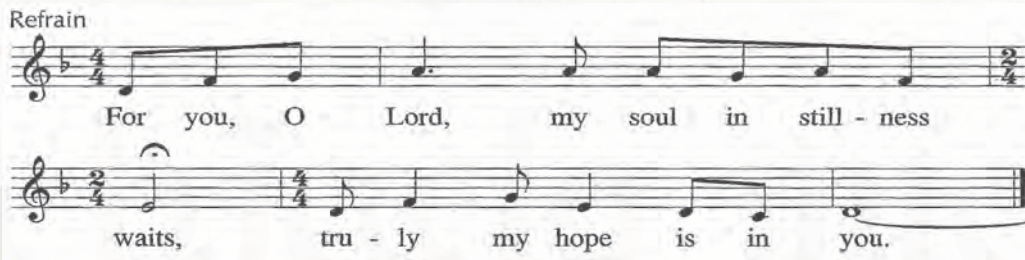
○ Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reach from one end of the earth to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: come teach us the ways of wisdom.

I cannot think unless I have been thought  
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken  
I cannot teach except as I am taught  
Or break the bread except as I am broken.  
○ Mind behind the mind through which I seek,  
○ Light within the light by which I see,  
○ Word beneath the words with which I speak  
○ founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me  
○ sounding Song whose depth is sounding me  
○ Memory of time, reminding me  
My Ground of Being, always grounding me  
My Maker's Bounding Line, defining me  
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring  
Come to me now, disguised as everything



# Response in Song: My Soul in Stillness Waits

We stand and sing together



Collect:

Leader Loving God your presence is near.

May we be people of light and wisdom—finding beauty and hope in unexpected places. Amen



## Adonai

### Lord

#### Antiphon II

We stay seated.

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

O Adonai, leader of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush; on Mount Sinai you gave us your wisdom: with outstretched arm, come and redeem us.

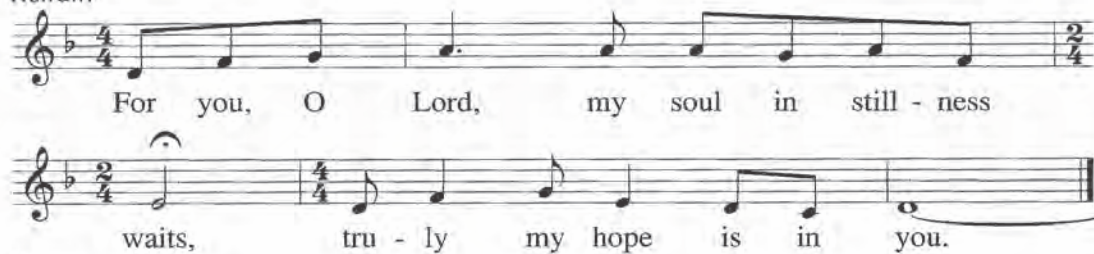


Unsayable, you chose to speak one tongue  
Unseeable, you gave yourself away,  
The Adonai, the Tetragramaton  
Grew by a wayside in the light of day.  
O you who dared to be a tribal God,  
To own a language, people and a place,  
Who chose to be exploited and betrayed,  
If so you might be met with face to face,  
Come to us here, who would not find you there,  
Who chose to know the skin and not the pith,  
Who heard no more than thunder in the air,  
Who marked the mere events and not the myth.  
Touch the bare branches of our unbelief  
And blaze again like fire in every leaf.

# Song: My Soul in Stillness Waits (verses 1 & 2)


We stand and sing together.

## Refrain




For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness  
waits, tru-ly my hope is in you.


## Verses



1. O Lord of Light, our on-ly hope of
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up-on our
3. O Root of Life, im-plant your seed with-
4. O Key of Knowl-edge, guide us in our
5. Come, let us bow be-fore the God who
6. Here we shall meet the Mak-er of the



glo-ry, your ra-diance shines in all who look to  
spir-its, our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your  
in us, and in your ad-vent, draw us all to  
pil-grim-age, we ev-er seek, yet un-ful-filled re-  
made us, let ev-'ry heart be o-pened to the  
heav-ens, Cre-a-tor of the moun-tains and the



you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and  
Word, come, make us whole, be com-fort to our  
you, our hope re-born in dy-ing and in  
main, o-pen to us the path-way of your  
Lord, for we are all the peo-ple of his  
seas, Lord of the stars, and pres-ent to us



shad-ow.  
hearts.  
ris-ing.  
peace.  
hand.  
now.

D.C.

Text: Psalm and "O" Antiphons; Matty Haugen. b.1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

## Collect:

Leader Loving God who calls us by name—  
help us live without fear, knowing you are with us.

Encourage us.

Strengthen us.

Bless us. Amen



# Radix Jesse

## Root of Jesse



The Tree of Jesse, ca. 1510

### Antiphon III

*Please be seated.*

O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare.

O Root of Jesse, you stand as a sign to the people; before you leaders shall keep silent, nations shall be reverent: come to free us, and do not delay.

All of us sprung from one deep-hidden seed,  
Rose from a root invisible to all.  
We knew the virtues once of every weed,  
But, severed from the roots of ritual,  
We surf the surface of a wide-screen world  
And find no virtue in the virtual.  
We shrivel on the edges of a wood  
Whose heart we once inhabited in love,  
Now we have need of you, forgotten Root  
The stock and stem of every living thing  
Whom once we worshiped in the sacred grove,  
For now is winter, now is withering  
Unless we let you root us deep within,  
Under the ground of being, graft us in.



# Song: Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

Please stand and sing together.

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore-told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
\*3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin-eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
dis - pel in glo-rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934), st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859);  
tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal* 1940  
Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alle Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;  
harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

76. 76. 676

## Collect:

Leader  $\bigcirc$  spirit of understanding, we are thirsty for wisdom.

May we find ancient wellsprings  
and from them drink in health and wholeness. Amen



# Clavis David

## Key of David



David Playing Bells, psalter 1205

### Antiphon IV

*Please be seated.*

O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vincitum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel; you reveal and do not hide; you close and do not open: come and deliver us from the chains of our prisons, we who sit in darkness and without life..

Even in the darkness where I sit  
And huddle in the midst of misery  
I can remember freedom, but forget  
That every lock must answer to a key  
That each dark clasp, sharp and intricate,  
Must find a counter-clasp to meet its guard.  
Particular, exact and intimate,  
The clutch and catch that meshes with its ward.  
I cry out for the key I threw away  
That turned and over turned with certain touch  
And with the lovely lifting of a latch  
Opened my darkness to the light of day.  
O come again, come quickly, set me free  
Cut to the quick to fit, the master key.



# Song: My Soul in Stillness Waits verses 3 & 4

Please stand and sing together.

## Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness  
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

## Verses

1. O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our
3. O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -
4. O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our
5. Come, let us bow be - fore the God who
6. Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the

glo - ry, your ra - diance shines in all who look to  
spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are year - ing for your  
in us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to  
pil - grim - age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -  
made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the  
heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun - tains and the

you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and  
Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our  
you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in  
main, o - pen to us the path - way of your  
Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his  
seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us

shad - ow.  
hearts.  
ris - ing.  
peace.  
hand.  
now.

Text: Psalm 95 and "O" Antiphons; Marty Haugen, b.1950  
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950  
© 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Collect:

Leader God of wonder and mystery,  
help us remember when fearing the dark  
we can always imagine the light. Amen

# Oriens

## Rising Dawn

### Antiphon ♪

*Please be seated.*

○ Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

○ Rising dawn, brightness of the light eternal, sun of compassion: come and enlighten us, we who sit in darkness and without life.



First light and then first lines along the east  
To touch and brush a sheen of light on water  
As though behind the sky itself they traced  
The shift and shimmer of another river  
Flowing unbidden from its hidden source;  
The Day-Spring, the eternal **Prima Vera**.  
Blake saw it too. Dante and Beatrice  
Are bathing in it now, away upstream...  
So every trace of light begins a grace  
In me, a beckoning. The smallest gleam  
Is somehow a beginning and a calling;  
“Sleeper awake, the darkness was a dream  
For you will see the Dayspring at your waking,  
Beyond your long last line the dawn is breaking”

# Offertory Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*We stand and sing together as an offering is collected. Tonight's offering will benefit the food bank at Helpline House.*



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
4 Sa - ran's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er (he grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## Collect:

Leader God of widening light, we see your presence in the morning and in the moonlight.

Invite us to know your mystery—in quiet stillness. Amen

## Reflection & Homily



# Rex Gentium

## King of Nations



Beginning of the Gospel of John, late ninth century

### Antiphon VI

*Please be seated.*

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

O Hope of All Nations, and their desire, you are the foundation, you are that which makes two into one: come and save the creature whom you have fashioned from clay.

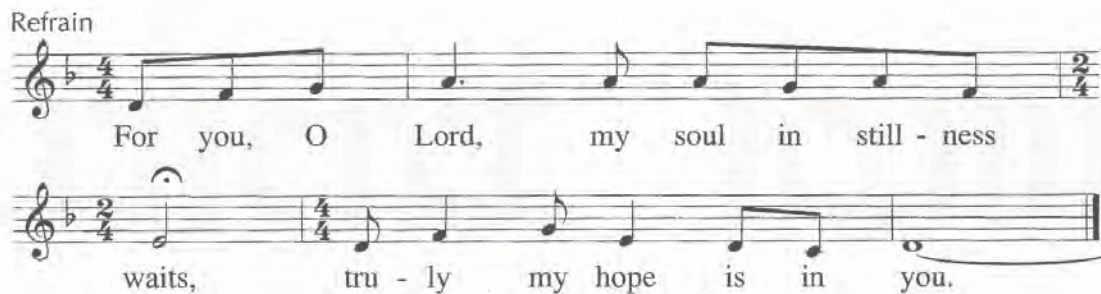
O King of our desire whom we despise,  
King of the nations never on the throne,  
Unfound foundation, cast-off cornerstone,  
Rejected joiner, making many one,  
You have no form or beauty for our eyes,  
A King who comes to give away his crown,  
A King within our rags of flesh and bone.  
We pierce the flesh that pierces our disguise,  
For we ourselves are found in you alone.  
Come to us now and find in us your throne,  
O King within the child within the clay,  
O hidden King who shapes us in the play  
Of all creation. Shape us for the day  
Your coming Kingdom comes into its own



# Song: My Soul in Stillness Waits (verses 5 & 6)

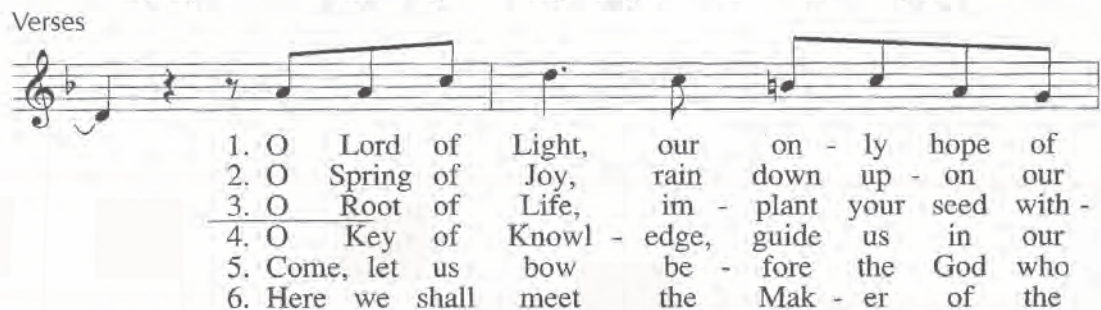
We stand and sing together.

Refrain

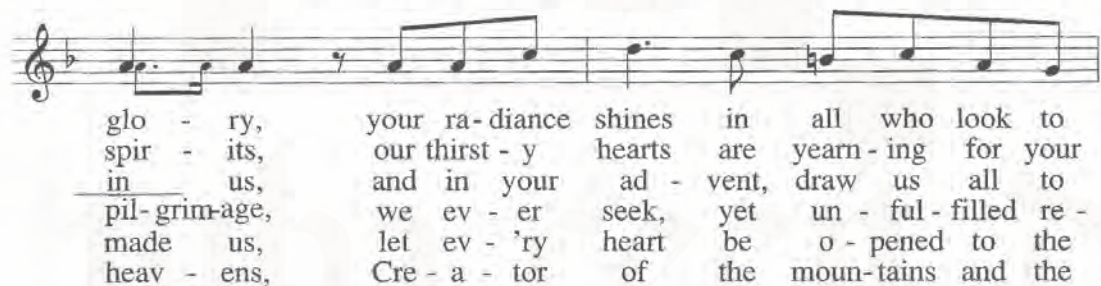


For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness  
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

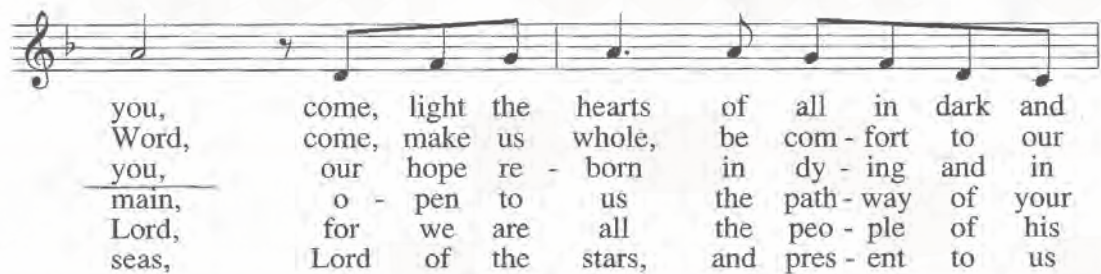
Verses



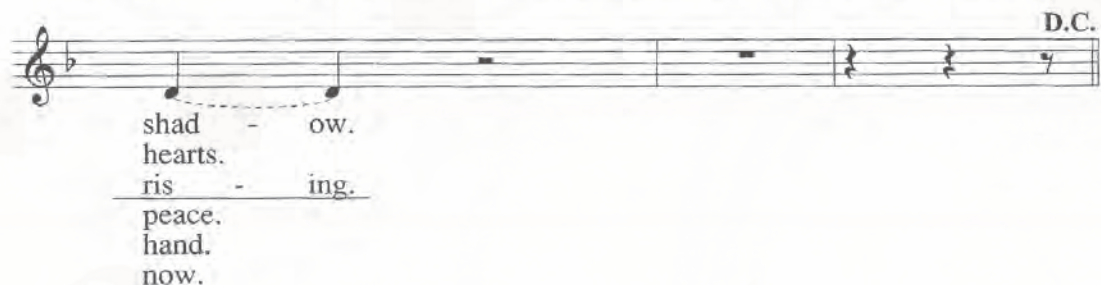
1. O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our
3. O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -
4. O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our
5. Come, let us bow be - fore the God who
6. Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the



glo - ry, your ra - diance shines in all who look to  
spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your  
in us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to  
pil - grim - age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -  
made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the  
heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun - tains and the



you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and  
Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our  
you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in  
main, o - pen to us the path - way of your  
Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of your  
seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us



D.C.

shad - ow.  
hearts.  
ris - ing.  
peace.  
hand.  
now.

## Collect:

Leader God of miracles, come—  
be with us tonight.

Touch us, separate us, from our former life.

Let us believe in everything. Amen



# Emmanuel God With Us



Initial E: The Adoration of the Magi, choir book, 1470's

*Please be seated.*

○ Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, expectatio gentium, et  
Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine Deus noster.

○ Emmanuel, you bring hope for all people: come and teach us  
the way of Love, ○ Gracious God.

○ come, ○ come, and be our God-with-us  
○ long-sought With-ness for a world without,  
○ secret seed, ○ hidden spring of light.  
Come to us, Wisdom, come unspoken Name  
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy flame,  
○ quickened little wick so tightly curled,  
Be folded with us into time and place,  
Unfold for us the mystery of grace  
And make a womb of all this wounded world.  
○ heart of heaven beating in the earth,  
○ tiny hope within our hopelessness  
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,  
To touch a dying world with new-made hands  
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.



Song: *My Soul in Stillness Waits*

*We stand and sing together.*

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness  
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains the melody for the first line of the song. The second staff continues the melody, with a 2/4 time signature change at the beginning of the second measure. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Collect:

Leader God of love and light—come.

Stars are gathering. Amen

○ Come, ○ Come, and be our God-with-us  
Come to us, Wisdom,  
Come unspoken Name  
Come Root, and Key,  
and King and holy flame





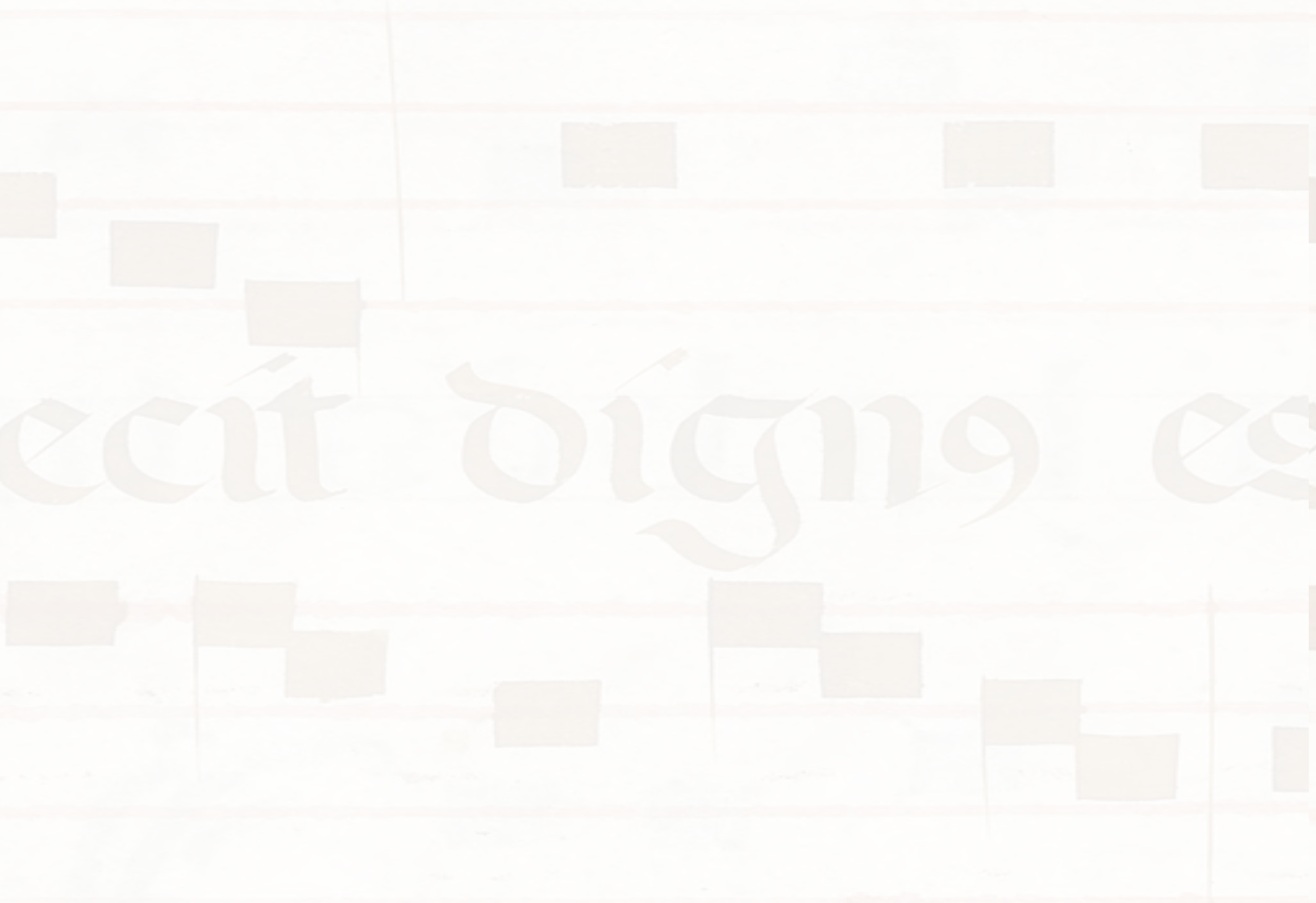
De lamete genem chue  
felix analla dei nos  
pondere pressos ex onera ⁊ fes  
los mordau bus exue culpis

Even this late it happens:  
the coming of love, the coming of light.  
You wake and the candles are lit as if by themselves,  
stars gather, dreams pour into your pillows,  
sending up warm bouquets of air  
Even this late the bones of the body shine  
and tomorrow's dust flares into breath.

—Mark Strand. *The Coming of Light*



joannes arc



Grace Episcopal Church ☦ Bainbridge Island, Washington

