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**O Christ, Bright Sun of Justice**  
SAT Choir, Keyboard, Guitar,  
Solo Instrument in C, Assembly

Justin Wedgewood/Harry Hagan, OSB



**CHORAL SERIES**

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# O Christ, Bright Sun of Justice

Music by  
Justin Wedgewood

Text by  
Harry Hagan, OSB

Preview



for Rev. Jonathan Fassero, OSB

# O Christ, Bright Sun of Justice

Based on *Jam Christe sol justitiae*  
Harry Hagan, OSB

Justin Wedgewood  
Arr. by Scott Soper

**INTRO** *Gently* (♩ = ca. 62)

Am Em/G F C/E Dm Am G

**\*VERSES 1-4**  
Melody (Soprano/Alto)

1. O Christ, bright sun of jus - tice, rise And drive the dark -  
 2. As gift, you give this time to heal, To fire the con -  
 3. May we who keep this Len - ten - tide Re - pent of sin -  
 4. The day shall come, great day of days, When earth re - born -

Harmony (Tenor): Omit Verse 1

C C Am Em F

1. - ness from our eyes. May jus - tice with your light in -  
 2. - trite heart with zeal. By fast - ing, prayer, and char - i -  
 3. and con - quer pride, And then with hum - ble hearts draw  
 4. shall sing your praise; Then we shall glo - ry in the

C G sus4 G Am Em/G F

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\*An alternate SAT setting of Verse 4 is found on page 3.

1-4	1-3: <i>D.S.</i>	To Alternate Verse 4
4: to Coda ⊕ (Vs 5)		

1. crease      And guide us in — the way of peace.  
 2. ty          Re - store to us — our dig - ni - ty.  
 3. near        To you, the Love — that casts out fear.                      fear.  
 4. cross        And count all gain — but Christ as loss.

1-4	1-3: <i>D.S.</i>	To Alternate Verse 4
C	4: to Coda ⊕ (Vs 5)	C

C/E                      Dm                      Am                      G

**ALTERNATE VERSE 4**

Melody

4. The day shall come, — great day of days, When

Harmony  
Tenor (*8vb*) or Soprano

Alto

4. The day,                      great                      day;

Dm                      Am                      G                      C                      C                      Am                      Em

4. earth re-born — shall sing your praise;                      Then we shall glo - ry in the

4. all ——— sing your praise;                      then glo - ry

F                      C                      Gsus4                      G                      Am                      Em/G                      F

(to Coda ⊕)

4. cross                      And    count   all gain —    but   Christ   as    loss.

4. in    the cross; —            count   all gain —    but   Christ   as    loss.

C/E                                  Dm            Am            G            C                                  (to Coda ⊕)

⊕ CODA (VERSE 5)

5. To

Dm7                                  Em            A sus4            A


VERSE 5

5. you, most gen-    tle God, we sing,            For    with    this Lent —    you

D                                  Bm            F#m                                  G

5. give us spring And make the nar - row way a

D A sus4 A Bm F#m/A G

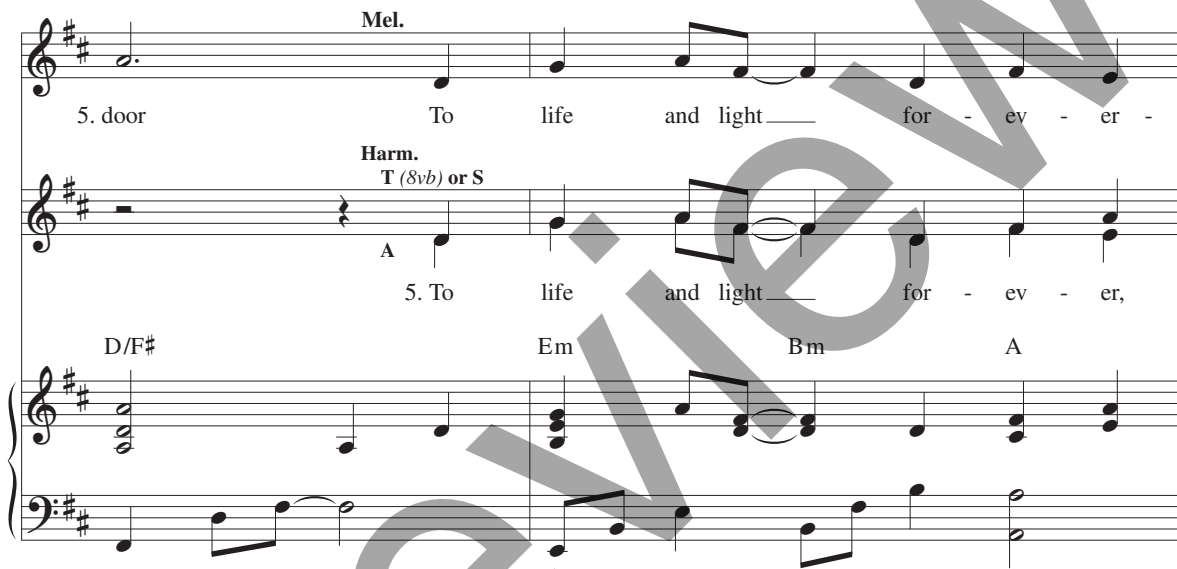


Mel.  
5. door To life and light — for - ev - er -

Harm.  
T (8vb) or S  
A

5. To life and light — for - ev - er,

D/F# Em Bm A



5. more; To life and light — for - ev - er - more. rit.

5. ev - er - more; — life for - ev - er - more. rit.

G D/F# Em Bm D/A A D



for Rev. Jonathan Fassero, OSB

# O Christ, Bright Sun of Justice

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on *Jam Christe sol justitiae*  
Harry Hagan, OSB

Justin Wedgewood

INTRO Gently ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 62$ )

Am Em/G F C/E Dm Am G

(Kbd)

VERSES 1-4

C C\* (let ring) Am (1.r.) Em (1.r.)

1. O Christ, bright sun of jus - tice, rise And  
2. As gift, you give this time to heal, To  
3. May we who keep this Len - ten - tide Re -  
4. The day shall come, great day of days, When

F (1.r.) C (1.r.) Gsus4 (1.r.) G (1.r.) Am Em/G

1. drive the dark - ness from our eyes. May jus - tice with your  
2. fire the con - trite heart with zeal. By fast - ing, prayer, and  
3. pent of sin and con - quer pride, And then with hum - ble  
4. earth re - born shall sing your praise; Then we shall glo - ry

F C/E Dm Am G C 1-3: D.S.  
4: to Coda ⊕ (Vs 5)

1. light in - crease And guide us in the way of peace.  
2. char - i - ty Re - store to us our dig - ni - ty.  
3. hearts draw near To you, the Love that casts out fear.  
4. in the cross And count all gain but Christ as loss.

⊕ CODA

VERSE 5

Dm7 Em Asus4 A D Bm F#m

5. To you, most gen - tle God, we sing, For

G D Asus4 A Bm F#m/A G D/F#

5. with this Lent you give us spring And make the nar - row way a door To

Em Bm A G D/F# Em Bm rit. D/A A D

5. life and light for - ev - er - more; To life and light for - ev - er - more.

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\*All chords indicated (let ring) are only for Verse 4 when the keyboard accompaniment alternate setting is used.

# O Christ, Bright Sun of Justice

SOLO INSTRUMENT in C

Justin Wedgewood

Arr. by Scott Soper

INTRO Gently ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 62$ )



VERSE 1

4

VERSE 2



VERSE 3



VERSE 4

3



VERSE 5



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Note: In the multimeasure rest, the individual measures retain the 3/2 + 2/2 metric scheme (that is, each measure has five beats).

## Composer Notes

This hymn is set in alternating 3/2 and 2/2 meter. While this is easily counted by giving the half-note the beat, care should be taken in order for the piece to have an overall flowing quality. The hymn should be continually building in energy and dynamics, with the tempo remaining steady and unrushed.

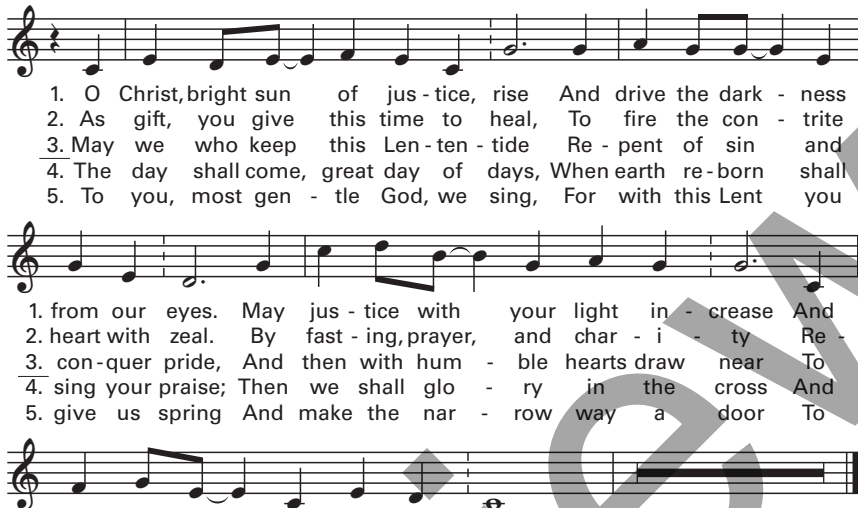
It is my hope that this setting of Harry Hagan's "O Christ, Bright Sun of Justice," will allow the gathered assembly to sing their Lenten praises to God. Pastoral musicians should be mindful in teaching the congregation this hymn so they will not be intimidated by the appearance of an unusual time signature.

—Justin Wedgewood

## Assembly Edition

O CHRIST, BRIGHT SUN OF JUSTICE

Justin Wedgewood



1. O Christ, bright sun of jus - tice, rise And drive the dark - ness  
 2. As gift, you give this time to heal, To fire the con - trite  
 3. May we who keep this Len - ten - tide Re - pent of sin and  
 4. The day shall come, great day of days, When earth re - born shall  
 5. To you, most gen - tle God, we sing, For with this Lent you

1. from our eyes. May jus - tice with your light in - crease And  
 2. heart with zeal. By fast - ing, prayer, and char - i - ty Re -  
 3. con - quer pride, And then with hum - ble hearts draw near To  
 4. sing your praise; Then we shall glo - ry in the cross And  
 5. give us spring And make the nar - row way a door To

1. guide us in the way of peace.  
 2. store to us our dig - ni - ty.  
 3. you, the Love that casts out fear.  
 4. count all gain but Christ as loss.  
 5. life and light for - ev - er - more.

Text: Based on *Jam Christe sol justitiae*; Harry Hagan, OSB, © 1998, St. Meinrad Archabbey.  
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## Textwriter Notes

The Latin chant on which the text is based is the traditional hymn for Lauds in the monastic office during Lent. This text cannot be called a translation exactly. Each stanza begins with the Latin and then wanders off on its own. Justice and peace are basic concerns of the king and therefore of the kingdom (Psalm 72:7; Isaiah 9:7). Prayer, fasting, and charity are basic to discipleship and to Lent (Matthew 6). Both John Cassian and Benedict take humility as the central virtue whereby we conform our lives to Christ who humbled himself and became obedient to death on the cross; however, the goal of humility according to both is that perfect love which casts out fear (1 John 4:18; Cassian, *The Institutes* IV:39.3; *Rule of Benedict* 7:67). The last verse takes its lead from Middle English in which “lent” was the word for “spring”.

—Harry Hagan, OSB

