



The O Antiphons

Paule Freeburg, DC

Christopher Walker

1. O Wisdom

mf (♩ = ca. 100)

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

O Wis - dom of our Ho - ly God, you guide all cre -

a - tion with your love. Come — to teach us the way — of wis - dom.

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FROM THE COLLECTION

Advent & Christmas: Prayer for the Journey

Meditation/Prayer Book #30143362

CD #30143363 | MP3 Album #30143364



2. O Adonai

(♩ = ca. 112)

mp

Soprano
Alto

O A - do - nai and rul - er of the House of Is - ra -

Tenor
Bass

mp

3 *mf*

el, you gave the law to Mo - ses on Mount Si - nai.

mf

5 *f*

Come to save us, save us with might and pow - er!

f

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3. O Root of Jesse

(♩ = ca. 104)

p

Soprano
Alto

O Root of Jes - se, you are a sign of God's love for all

Tenor
Bass

p

peo - ple. Come to save us and do not de - lay!

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4. O Key of David

(♩ = ca. 96)

Soprano Alto *mp*

Tenor Bass *mp*

O Key of Da - vid, you o - pen the gates to the

King - dom of God. Come and free us from the dark - ness.

f *rit.* *pp*

f *rit.* *pp*

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5. O Radiant Dawn

(♩ = ca. 92)

mf *mp*

Soprano
Alto

O Ra - diant Dawn, you are the splen - dor of e - ter - nal light,

Tenor
Bass

mf *mp*

f *mf*

the sun of jus - tice. Come and shine on all who dwell in dark - ness

p *pp*

and in the shad - ow of death.

p *pp*

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6. O Christ, King of All Nations

(♩ = ca. 104)

mp *mf*

Soprano
Alto

O Christ, King of all Na - tions, you are the cor - ner - stone

Tenor
Bass

mp *mf*

of the Church. Come and save us, whom you formed from the earth.

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7. O Emmanuel

(♩ = ca. 100)
mp

Soprano
Alto

O Em-man - u - el,

Tenor
Bass

O Em-man - u - el,

3

O Em - man - u - el, our King, you are the hope of all

5

mf *rit.*

na - tions. Come and save us, O Lord our God!

mf *rit.*

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8. O Christ for All Ages

(♩ = ca. 104)

mp *mf*

Soprano
Alto

O Christ for all a - ges, you are the Re-deem-er for

Tenor
Bass

mp *mf*

4 *rit.* *p* *mp* *a tempo* *rit.*

whom we long. Come, Lord Je - sus, make your home in us!

rit. *p* *mp* *rit.*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the first system of 'O Christ for All Ages'. It features vocal parts for Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass, and piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as approximately 104 beats per minute. Dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) to mezzo-forte (mf). The lyrics are: 'O Christ for all a - ges, you are the Re-deem-er for whom we long. Come, Lord Je - sus, make your home in us!'. The piano part includes performance markings such as 'rit.' (ritardando) and 'a tempo'.

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9. O Christ, the Morning Star

(♩ = ca. 116)

mp *mf*

Soprano
Alto

O Christ, the Morn-ing Star, our God and Sav - ior

Tenor
Bass

mp *mf*

4 *mp* *mf*

hid - den in hu - man form. Be born to - day in our hearts,

mp *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the first system of 'O Christ, the Morning Star'. It features vocal parts for Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass, and piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as approximately 116 beats per minute. Dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) to mezzo-forte (mf). The lyrics are: 'O Christ, the Morn-ing Star, our God and Sav - ior hid - den in hu - man form. Be born to - day in our hearts,'. The piano part includes performance markings such as 'mp' and 'mf'.

to-day and al-ways, to-day and al-ways, al-ways in our hearts.

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10. O Word of God

(♩ = ca. 116)

p *mp*

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

p *mp*

O Word of God, you speak to all

Slower *f*

3

peo - ple through the com - ing of your Son, God made

f

7

p

vis - i - ble, our Lord Je - sus Christ.

p

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Textwriter Notes

The O Antiphons have been sung in the Church since at least the eighth century. They formed the sung antiphon before the *Magnificat* canticle during Evening Prayer for the seven days before Christmas, and still do today. They proclaim the coming of Christ under seven titles used for the coming Messiah in the Hebrew Scriptures. Today, in our own time, these *O Antiphons* express our own desire for Christ to enter our hearts at Christmas.

The seven antiphons are actually known to many in the Church today. The Church uses them at Mass for the seven days before Christmas to introduce the Gospel proclamation. For example: on December 19, the Gospel of Luke 1:5–25 is introduced by:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
 O Root of Jesse's stem,
 sign of God's love for all his people;
 come to save us without delay!
 R. Alleluia, alleluia.

And the O Antiphons are familiar to many in the Advent hymn, "O come, O come Emmanuel." Each verse is an 'O' Antiphon. For example:

O come, O come, Emmanuel
 and ransom captive Israel
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear.
 O come thou Wisdom from on high
 who orders all this mightily...

—Paule Freeburg, DC

Composer Notes

The four-part versions in this octavo are accessible to most SATB choirs. Make sure that the text is clearly heard and that attention is given to the dynamic markings. For the fuller SSAATTBB version, please contact the publisher.

They may be sung throughout the Advent Season but especially in the last weeks before Christmas. At Mass they can be sung as a prelude before Advent Masses, as the altar is incensed before the greeting, before distribution of Communion, as a meditation after a homily, or at the offertory as the gifts are presented.

They may also be sung during Advent, especially at celebrations of vespers (Evening Proper), at other prayer services, Advent reconciliation services, or for celebrations of Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols.

You can hear these *O Antiphons* sung as the short response to the readings in *Advent & Christmas: Prayer for the Journey* (OCP, edition 30143362). In addition to the meditation/prayer book, an eBook edition (30143365) and an audio book edition (30145795) are also available.

—Christopher Walker

