

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 Busca primero el reino de Dios
 y su perfecta justicia,
 que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.
 Alelu, aleluya.

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
 그의를 구하-면
 이모든것 네게 더하시리라
 알렐-루 알렐루야

Alternate accompaniment

D F#m G D

G D Em7 A

D F#m G D

G D A7 D

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Am Em F Dm E

1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the

E7 Am E Am E

light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
 light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;

Am Dm Esus E

va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

This text works best when used incrementally during the four weeks of Advent. It underscores the "waiting" theme of the season and concludes appropriately with reference to Matthew 25:1-13. The tune name meaning "deep in the forest" comes from the opening of a Yiddish love song.

86 The People Who Walked in Darkness

Capo 3: (Em) (C/E) (Em) (C/E) (Em)

Gm Eb/G Gm Eb/G Gm

1 The peo - ple who walked in dark - ness a - wak - en
 2 For God has en - larged the na - tion, and pros - pered
 3 The yoke of de - spair and bond - age, the chains of
 4 For us now a child is giv - en, for all the
 5 How vast is our God's do - min - ion! How far truth

(D) (G) (B) (Em) (C/E)

F Bb D Gm Eb/G

see a great light. The peo - ple who dwelt in
 fruit of its land. God's peo - ple are blest with
 slave mas - ter's rod are shat - tered and scat - tered
 spised and for - lorn. The rule of com - pas - sion
 mer - cy ex - tend. The zeal of the Lord will

One of the great virtues of scriptural paraphrases is that they bring fresh understanding and appreciation to familiar passages. This adaptation of a customary Advent text, Isaiah 9:2-7, provides an effective example of how revisited verses can take on new life when recast.

361 O Christ, the Great Foundation

1 O Christ, the great foun-da-tion on which your peo-ple stand
 2 Bap-tized in one con-fes-sion, one church in all the earth,
 3 Where ty-rants' hold is tight-ened, where strong de-vour the weak,
 4 This is the mo-ment glo-rious when he who once was dead

to preach your true sal-va-tion in ev-ery age and land:
 we bear our Lord's im-pres-sion, the sign of sec-ond birth:
 where in-no-cents are fright-ened, the righ-teous fear to speak,
 shall lead his church vic-to-rious, their cham-pion and their head.

pour out your Ho-ly Spir-it to make us strong and pure,
 one ho-ly peo-ple gath-ered in love be-yond our own,
 there let your church a-wak-ing at-tack the powers of sin
 The Lord of all cre-a-tion his heav-en-ly king-dom brings:

to keep the faith un-bro-ken as long as worlds en-dure.
 by grace we were in-vit-ed; by grace we make you known.
 and, all their ram-parts break-ing, with you the vic-tory win.
 the fi-nal con-sum-ma-tion, the glo-ry of all things.

The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune is a comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).

362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

1 Re-joice! Re-joice, be-liev-ers, and let your lights ap-pear;
 2 See that your lamps are burn-ing; re-plen-ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex-pec-ta-tion, O Je-sus, now ap-pear;

the eve-ning is ad-vanc-ing and dark-er night is near.
 look now for your sal-va-tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a-rise, thou Sun so longed for, a-bove this shad-owed sphere!

The Bride-groom is a-ris-ing and soon he will draw nigh.
 The mar-riage feast is wait-ing; the gates wide o-pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up-lift-ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, watch with ex-pec-ta-tion; at mid-night comes the cry.
 a-rise, O heirs of glo-ry; the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re-demp-tion, and ev-er be with thee!

The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1-13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.