

# 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,  
 you have seen his na - tal star: come and wor - ship,  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

# 144 In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made m  
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tai  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered the  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a sto  
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to re  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throned the a  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lan

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - fic  
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bli  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my pe

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a  
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Ch  
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a  
 yet what I can I give him: give my hu

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honours a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

# 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



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

5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
 and close the path to misery.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
 our spirits by thine advent here;  
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 all peoples in one heart and mind;  
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

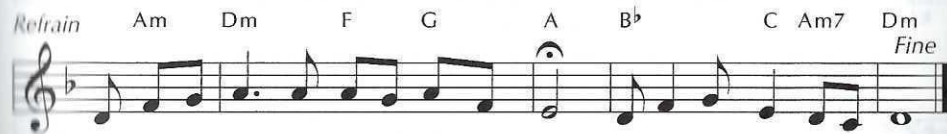
- Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)
- Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)
- Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

- Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)
- Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)
- Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

# For You, O Lord, My Soul 89 in Stillness Waits My Soul in Stillness Waits



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



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



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the  
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us  
 and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re -  
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re - main; o - pen to  
 let ev - ery heart be o - pened to the Lord, for we are  
 Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the



hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.  
 whole, be com - fort to our hearts.  
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 us the path - way of your peace.  
 all the peo - ple of God's hand.  
 stars, and pres - ent to us now.

With a paraphrase of Psalm 62:5 as a refrain, this Advent text adapts four of the "Great O" antiphons (all of which can be seen in no. 88), combining them with a paraphrase of Psalm 95:6-7 and an echo of a medieval hymn. This rich blend yields a wealth of imagery and meaning.

## 542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's  
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -  
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -  
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -  
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:  
 vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 round you:  
 fore you:

## 543 God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit -  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears

move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit -  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan -  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all w  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know

O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *larica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.