

# Advent: Setting the scene

Seasonal psalm: Ps. 25 - "To You O Lord I Lift Up My Soul" (also Ps. 85)

- Marty Haugen [Psalms of Church Year, Vol. 1. GIA; or Catholic Worship Book] *beautiful, lyrical melody*
- Bob Hurd [As One Voice, Vol. 2: #14] - *upbeat, gospel style*
- Stephen Pishner [octavo: GIA] *based on VENI EMMANUEL tune, with corresponding gospel acclamation*
- Colin Smith [As One Voice, Vol. 1: #108] - *simple psalm tone*

## Seasonal mass setting

- Richard Proulx - Missa Emmanuel [in Four Chant Masses. GIA; or RitualSong hymnal] *- based on VENI VENI EMMANUEL tune*  
*- unaccompanied singing*  
*- consider appropriateness of chant-style Mass setting for "reflective" seasons (Advent & Lent)*
- David Haas - Mass of Light  
*- title as guide to seasonal usage? check memorial acclamation, gospel acclamation verses, etc.*

## Seasonal songs (some of my favourites)

- Haas - Jesus Come To Us [A(s)O(ne)V(oice) 1: 148]
- Farrell - Praise To You O Christ Our Saviour [AOV 1: 28]
- Haugen - God of Day And God of Darkness [AOV 1: 56]
- Robinson - A Voice In The Wilderness [AOV 1: 62]
- Missetich - The Whole World Is Waiting For Love [AOV 2: 141] - *children*
- Wren/Carlton- Star Child [AOV 2: 43] - also Haas version in Star Child collection [GIA]
- Farrell - Come To Set Us Free [AOV 1: 39]
- Berthier - Wait for the Lord [G(ather)A(ustralia): 283]
- Porter - Advent Chant [AOV 2: 123]
- Ford - Wait In Hope [AOVFK: 58]
- Haugen - My Soul in Stillness Waits [GA: 280] - *"O" antiphons*
- Farrell - God Beyond All Names [AOV 2: 23]
- Haas - Magnificat [in I Shall See God or octavo: GIA]
- Farrell - Advent Litany [GA: 279]
- Haugen - Maranatha [octavo: GIA] - *based on VENI EMMANUEL*

## Other rites (special to the season)

### Advent wreath (or similar rite: eg stars of Southern Cross)

- John Bell - "Christmas Is Coming" [in Innkeepers And Light Sleepers. GIA]
- Geonyong Lee - "Come Now O Prince Of Peace" [Church of Scotland]
- Catherine Walker - "Lord Of Life, We Come To You" [in There Is One Among Us. GIA]

# Advent: the forgotten season?

## Origins

- Western liturgical season (no equivalent in Eastern liturgical traditions) dates from late 4th century
- originally served as preparation period for adult rites of Christian initiation held on the vigil of Epiphany, varying from 4 to 6 weeks
- eventually, a special period was proclaimed as a more intense time of expectation, fasting and prayer from December 17-24 (NB: special prayers, O Antiphons)

## Meaning

- originally, simply preparation for the feast of the coming of the Lord
- from High Middle Ages, began to develop message of glorious return of Lord at the end of time

## The Liturgy: outline

- Week 1**    Theme:    Watch & Pray: vigilant waiting for the Lord
- Week 2**    Theme:    John the Baptist's challenge: prepare the way of the Lord!
- Week 3**    Theme:    The Messianic age is here: therefore, rejoice! (Gaudete Sunday)
- Week 4**    Theme:    The incarnation of the Word: the event set in motion

## 2 distinct phases:

Phase 1: beginning of Advent to December 16

- focuses on the two comings of Christ - his first among us as human, his second in glory as judge at the end of time
- stirring themes of warning signs in nature and human history

Phase 2: December 17 - 23

- more personal - centres on Christ's humanity

in general, a challenging season for the southern hemisphere Church, as it is typically associated with images of winter and light in the darkness, when our days are getting longer and warmer!

## Music in the Advent liturgy

the music of Advent should be characterized by a simplicity that gives way to building excitement and expectation

in my opinion, Advent requires a strong sense of "the season", more than any of other of the liturgical seasons, as it has already been overtaken by Christmas in the secular world.