

Tuesday, December 23

In "For You O Lord, My Soul In Stillness Wait," Glory to God, p. 89, Marty Haugen weaves strands of scripture and liturgy. The Refrain comes from Psalm 62:5 and a paraphrase of Psalm 95:6-7. The verses, however, reflect a medieval tradition known as the "Great O." Explained on the Westminster Abbey website: *The Great O Antiphons were first written in the Medieval period, possibly as early as the 6th or 7th century. Many variations and melodies exist, but these seven are shared by all traditions. Other antiphons sung in some strands of the English plainsong tradition include O Virgin of Virgins and O Gabriel, among others. In Latin, the first letter of each Antiphon, backwards, forms an acrostic - 'ero cras', which is translated as 'tomorrow I will come'. Whether this was intentional or not, the phrase encapsulates the hope of the Advent season as we look towards Christ's incarnation at Christmas.*

Refrain all verses: **For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.**

1. O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits, our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word, come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.
3. O Root of Life, implant your seed within us, and in your advent, draw us all to you, our hope reborn in dying and in rising.
4. O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage, we ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain, open to us the pathway of your peace.
5. Come, let us bow before the God who made us, let ev'ry heart be opened to the Lord, for we are all the people of his hand.
6. Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens, Creator of the mountains and the seas, Lord of the stars, and present to us now.

Notice the many prophetic words/images are included! The promised light, spiritual refreshment, new life/growth, pilgrimage, humble hearts and rejoicing creation pepper Isaiah's announcements. At Westminster Abbey these many words are assigned to the days between 17 and 23 of Advent.

This hymn leads us to meditate on the mystery of Christ's incarnation with the necessary reminder to wait with hope on God's presence among us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5d6Ngf-nDM> Notre Dame Newman Center
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJRRjXBWZ-I> Ria Bianca Valeroso

Prayer: *For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you. Amen.*