

Commissioned by the Bucknell University Rooke Chapel Choir for the 2013 Bucknell Candlelight Christmas

# Advent Reflections

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Harp or Piano\*

from "O Antiphons"  
Christine Schenk, CSJ

Joseph Gregorio

## I.

Gently; with humility (♩ = 80)

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

Piano

Gently; with humility (♩ = 80)

*p*

7

S  
A

O Wis-dom, So-phi-a's child, and Ma - ry's

Pno.

*con pedale*

14

A

too, bring us back, bring us back to you.

B

*mp*

O A - do-nai,

Pno.

*mp*

\* If performing *Advent Reflections* with harp, the harpist should not play from this piano/choral score, but rather from the harp part, 8490B. The full score, 8490A, contains chorus and harp parts.

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19

B *set us free of fear, de - spair, mi - sog - - - y -*

Pno.

25

S *O Jus-tice Flower of Jes-se tree, up - root our ha-treds. Wash us*

B *ny.*

Pno.

29

S *clean in just - reign wa - ters, plant us deep in Thee.*

T *O Key -*

Pno.

33

T *of Da-vid, o - pen heav-en's gate, un - lock, un - block a cap - tive church too long en -*

Pno.

37 *mf* *poco f*

S O Ra - diant Dawn, light the

A O Ra - diant Dawn, light the

T thrall'd by hate.

Pno. *f*

40

S way of all who long to preach, to teach, to

A way of all who long to preach, to teach, to

Pno.

43

S con - se - crate heaven - ly hosts of God's in -

A con - se - crate heaven - ly hosts of God's in -

Pno.

46

S  
dwell - ing.

A  
dwell - ing.

T  
*poco f* ————— *f*  
O — Em - man - u - el, strength-en wea - ry

B  
*poco f* ————— *f*  
O — Em - man - u - el, strength-en wea - ry

Pno.  
*cresc.* ————— *più f*

50

T  
8 arms, stead - y trem - bling - knees, bring sur - cease of

B  
8 arms, stead - y trem - bling - knees, bring sur - cease of

Pno.

6

54 *unis. f* *più f*

S  
O Ad - - - vent

A  
O Ad - - - vent

T  
sor - row. O Ad - vent

B  
*unis.* sor - row. *più f* O Ad - vent

Pno.  
*cresc.* *ff with brilliance*

56 *unis.*

S  
Light, dis - pel death's dark

A  
*unis.* Light, dis - pel death's dark

T  
Light, dis - pel death's dark

B  
Light, dis - pel death's dark

Pno.

58

S shad - - ow. A - wak - - en, a -

A shad - - ow. A - wak - - en, a -

T shad - - ow. A - wak - - en, a -

B shad - - ow. A - wak - - en, a -

Pno.

60

S wak - - en, a - wak - en a wait - ing

A wak - en, a - wak - en a wait - ing

T wak - - en, a - wak - en a wait - ing

B wak - - en, a - wak - en a wait - ing

Pno.

8

62 *ff* *unis. p* **Broadening**

S world to life's fresh - blessed to -

A world to life's fresh - blessed to -

T world to life's fresh - blessed to -

B world to life's fresh - blessed to -

Pno.

66 **Slowing until the end** *pp*

S mor - row.

A mor - row.

T mor - row.

B mor - row.

Pno. *mp* *p*

“Isaiah 61”

II.

Christine Schenk, CSJ

Slowly; with determination (♩ = 63)

Soprano  
I wait with quick-ened hope for crook-ed paths to straight-en, with tough - soul'd

Alto  
I wait with quick-ened hope for crook-ed paths to straight-en, with tough - soul'd

Tenor  
I wait with quick-ened hope for crook-ed paths to straight-en, with tough - soul'd

Bass  
I wait with quick-ened hope for crook-ed paths to straight-en, with tough - soul'd

Slowly; with determination (♩ = 63)

Piano  
(for rehearsal only)

S  
an-guish, while blind - ed keep-ers of the keys shut out God's own. (If

A  
an-guish, while blind - ed keep-ers of the keys shut out God's own. (If

T  
an-guish, while blind - ed keep-ers of the keys shut out God's own. (If

B  
an-guish, while blind - ed keep-ers of the keys shut out God's own. (If

Pno.



11 *poco* *p* *mf* **Pressing forward**

S such a thing were pos-si-ble.) I wait, I wait, I wait, and will

A such a thing were pos-si-ble.) I wait, I wait, and will

T such a thing were pos-si-ble.) I wait, I wait, and will

B such a thing were pos-si-ble.) I wait, I wait, and will

Pno.

16 *f* *mp* *poco cresc.* *3* **As at first** ( $\dot{=} \dot{=}$ )

S not be dis - mayed. For ti - ny shoot of Jes - se tree took

A not be dis - mayed. For ti - ny shoot of Jes - se tree took

T not be dis - mayed. For ti - ny shoot of Jes - se tree took

B not be dis - mayed. For ti - ny shoot of Jes - se tree took

Pno.

( $\dot{=} \dot{=}$ ) **As at first** ( $\dot{=} \dot{=}$ )

21 **Slowing until the end**

*poco cresc.* 3 *p* *pp*

S  
root in me to love, trans-form, give sight, set free.

A  
root in me to love, trans-form, give sight, set free.

T  
root in me to love, trans-form, give sight, set free.

B  
root in me to love, trans-form, give sight, set free.

Pno. *poco cresc.* 3 *p* *pp*

**Slowing until the end**

III.

“Emmanuel”  
Christine Schenk, CSJ

**Flowing; flexible throughout** (♩ = 80)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

**Flowing; flexible throughout** (♩ = 80)

Piano *mp* gently; flexibly

*with pedal*

5

*mp*

S You who make waste - lands bloom and wa - ter

A You who make waste - lands bloom and wa - ter

T You who make waste - lands bloom and wa - ter

B You who make waste - lands bloom and wa - ter

Pno.

9

*mp*

S flow from ston - y par - a - pets, —

A flow from ston - y par - a - pets, —

T flow from ston - y par - a - pets, —

B flow from ston - y par - a - pets, —

Pno.

12

S

A

T

B

Pno.

*mp sub.*

16

S

A

T

B

Pno.

*poco f*

show - er now this hard land scape with

show-er now this hard land - scape with

*poco f*

show-er now this land - scape\_ with

*poco f*

show-er this land - scape\_ with

*poco f*

show-er this land -scape with\_

*poco f*

19

S free - ly giv - en grace, — so poor de -

A free - ly giv - en grace, — so poor de -

T free - ly giv - en grace, — so — poor de -

B free - ly giv - en grace, — so poor de -

Pno.

22

S sert - ed cho - sen ones — can fi - nal - ly rest in — am - ber wav - ing fields.

A sert - ed cho - sen ones — can fi - nal - ly rest in — am - ber wav - ing fields.

T sert - ed cho - sen ones — can fi - nal - ly rest in — am - ber wav - ing fields.

B sert - ed cho - sen ones — can fi - nal - ly rest in — am - ber wav - ing fields.

Pno.

27

S of ten - der jus - tice.

A of ten - der jus - tice.

T of ten - der jus - tice.

B of ten - der jus - tice.

Pno. *mp*

32

Pno. *p sub.*

36

**Holding back** **Slower (♩ = 66)**

S *p unis.* You, do

A *p unis.* You, do

T *p unis.* You, do

B *p unis.* You, do

**Holding back** **Slower (♩ = 66)**

Pno. *still p* *poco cresc.*

40 **Broadening** **In tempo** (♩ = 66) *pp*

S  
A  
T  
B

now some - thing new.

now some - thing new.

**Broadening** **In tempo** (♩ = 66) *p*

Pno.

45 **Slowing until the end**

*mp* *p* *pp*

2013  
ca. 9:00

## I.

O Wisdom,  
Sophia's child,  
and Mary's too,  
bring us back to you.

O Adonai,  
set us free  
of fear, despair,  
misogyny.

O Justice Flower  
of Jesse tree,  
uproot our hatreds.  
Wash us clean  
in just-reign waters,  
plant us deep in Thee.

O Key of David,  
open heaven's gate,  
unlock, unblock  
a captive church  
too long enthralled  
by hate.

O Radiant Dawn,  
light the way  
of all who long to preach,  
to teach.

to consecrate  
heavenly hosts  
of God's indwelling.

O Emmanuel,  
strengthen weary arms,  
steady trembling knees,  
bring surcease of sorrow.

O Advent Light,  
dispel death's dark  
shadow.

Awaken a waiting world  
to life's fresh-blessed  
tomorrow.

—from "O Antiphons"

## TEXT

## II.

I wait  
with quickened hope  
for crooked paths  
to straighten,

with tough, soul'd  
anguish,  
while blinded  
keepers of the keys  
shut out  
God's own.

(If such a thing  
were possible.)

I wait,  
and will not be  
dismayed.

For tiny shoot  
of Jesse tree  
took root in me  
to love,  
transform,  
give sight,  
set free.

—"Isaiah 61"

## III.

You  
who make  
wastelands bloom  
and water flow  
from stony parapets,  
shower now  
this hard landscape  
with freely  
given grace,  
so poor  
deserted  
chosen ones  
can finally rest  
in amber waving fields  
of tender justice.  
You,  
do now  
something  
new.

—"Emmanuel"

Joseph Gregorio (b. 1979)  
For biographical information visit:  
[www.josephgregoriomusic.com](http://www.josephgregoriomusic.com)

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