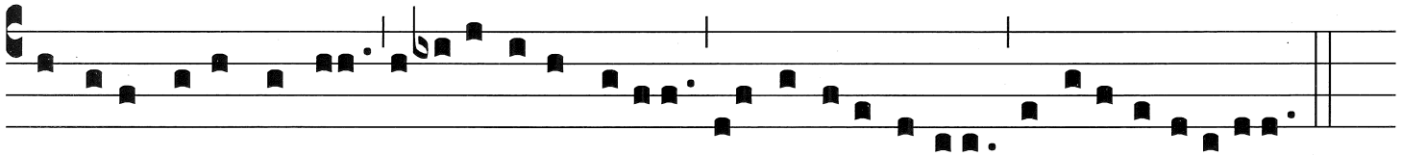


## Advent Sequence



Night on all the world has stolen, All our hope in darkness fallen. Though we feel our strength declining, Points of light above are shining.



Night to night foretells God's story; All the sky proclaims his glory. Into gloom a new star blazes, Man his gaze to heaven raises.

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But the dawn of all our longing  
Sits astride a weary donkey.  
Joseph holds the donkey's bridle;  
Justly is "the just" his title.  
Mary is the donkey's rider,  
Bearing God and man inside her.  
Bethlehem is scarcely able  
To provide its Lord a stable.

We like foolish sheep have wandered,  
All our blessings we have squandered.  
In the forest is no shepherd,  
Only wolf and bear and leopard.  
David's flock is struck and scattered,  
Adam's ancient family shattered.  
Send us now a lamb as master;  
He will lead us to our pasture.

Oxen know their master's manger;  
We have sought instead a stranger.  
Oxen trample on a serpent;  
We have made ourselves its servant.

Oh to see our shepherd bounding!  
Oh to hear his voice resounding!  
Come to take this foolish roamer  
Home again upon his shoulder.

'Round the shepherds in the stillness  
Shines a sudden heav'nly brilliance.  
From the sky they hear an angel:  
"Seek your king laid in a manger!"  
Now the song of jubilation  
Stars proclaim to distant nations.  
Kings traverse the hills and prairies,  
Riding on their dromedaries.

Even beasts can come adore him,  
Lowly camels fall before him.  
Men of wisdom come to see him,  
Men of power come to greet him.  
They with mystic gifts acclaim him;  
Prophet, priest, and king they name him.  
I will join the great procession,  
Offer him my own confession.

How I long to see tomorrow!  
Jesus comes to end all sorrow.  
Sun at last on earth arisen,  
He will light our darkest prison.  
God becomes an infant lowly;  
Man to God is raised in glory.  
From the night of sin release us—  
Maranatha, oh come Lord Jesus!