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# A Prayer for Advent

SATB with divisi a cappella

Jon Simsic

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## Jon Simsic

Jon Simsic is Organist and Choirmaster at St. Joseph's Church in Columbus, OH. Jon conducts *Illuminare*, which he founded in 2007, a chamber chorus devoted to sacred choral music. Jon is Music Director/Accompanist for Greater Western Reserve Young Artist's Program. Past positions for Jon include Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor of the Youngstown Symphony, Artistic Director of South Theater and Music for the Salem (OH) Community Theater, and Conductor for Valley Lyric Opera (Greenville, PA). In 2009, Jon's anthem *Harvest Hymn* for choir and organ was the grand prize winner of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) composition contest. *Harvest Hymn* was subsequently premiered at Salisbury Cathedral.

## Composer Notes

The text and plainchant “Rorate coeli desuper et nubes pluant justum” (Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just), are used frequently in liturgy throughout Advent. The chant text, drawn from Isaiah 45:8, expresses a longing for the coming of the Messiah. The initial portion of the chant, quoted in measures 1 and 46, frames the poet's analogous Advent yearnings, and provides the motivic leaven for the composition.

# A Prayer for Advent

SATB with divisi a cappella

\*Text by Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)

Jon Simsic (1963)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

As chant, ser... mistu...  
*p*

Lord - e - sus, Mas - ter of both the light and the dark - ness,  
*> pp*

Lord - e - sus, Mas - ter of both the light and the dark - ness,  
*> pp*

\*Words by Henri Nouwen and Music by Jon Simsic.  
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♩ = 52 - 56 Very sustained with some freedom

2 *mp* *mf* *mp*

send your Ho - ly Spi - rit u - pon our prep - a -

*mp* *mf* *mp*

3 Spi - rit u pon our prep -

send your Ho - ly Spi - rit u - pon our prep -

*mp* *mf* *mp*

3 send your Ho - ly Spi - rit u - pon our prep - a -

*mp* *mf* *mp*

send your Ho - ly Spi - rit u - pon our prep - a -

5 *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* **A tempo**

-ra - tions for Christ - mas. We who have so

*p*

-ra - tions for unis.

-ra - tions for Christ - mas. We who have so

*p*

-ra - tions for Christ - mas. We who have so

*p*

-ra - tions for Christ - mas. We who have so

**poco rit.** **A tempo**

cresc. , sub. *p*

8

much to do seek qui - et spa - ces to hear your voice each

much to do seek qui - et spa - ces to hear your voice each

much to do seek qui - et spa - ces to hear your voice each

much to do seek qui - et spa - ces to hear your voice each

**poco rit.** **A tempo**

*mp* *p*

11

day, each day. We who are an - xious o - ver

day, each day. We who are an - xious o - ver

day, each day. We who are an - xious o - ver

*mp* *p* unis.

day. We who are an - xious o - ver

*mf* *mp* *cresc.* **rit.**

14  
 ma - ny things look for - ward to your

*mf* *mp* *cresc.*

ma - ny things look for - ward to y

*mf* *mp* *cresc.*

8  
 ma - ny things look for - ward to ar

*mf* *mp* *cresc.*

ma - ny things look for - ward to your

**Broadly** **tempo** **poco rit.**

17  
 com - ing, your com - ing a - mong us.

*f* *mf* *p*

com - ing, your com - ing a - mong us.

*f* *mf* *p*

8  
 com - ing, your com - ing a - mong us.

*f* *mf* *p*

com - ing, your com - ing a - mong us.



**rit.** **A tempo** **poco rit.**

*f* *mf*

26

the joy of your king - dom, your king -

the joy of your king - dom, your king -

8 the joy of your king - dom, your king -

the joy of your king - dom, your king -

**A tempo**

*p*

29

-dom. We whose hearts are

- dom. We whose hearts are

8 -dom. We whose hearts are

*p* hearts are

-dom. We whose hearts are

32 *mp* *mp* *poco rit.* *p*

hea - vy seek the joy of your pres - ence.

hea - vy seek the joy of your pres - ence.

hea - vy seek the joy of your pres - ence.

hea - vy seek the joy of your pres - ence.

35 *A tempo* *mp* *rit.* *mp*

We are your peo - ple, walk - ing in

We are your peo - ple walk - ing, walk - ing in

We are your peo - ple walk - ing, walk - ing in

We are your peo - ple walk - ing in

38 *Slowly* *pp* *Broadly* *ppp*

dark - ness, in\_ dark - ness, yet seek-ing the light.

*pp* *ppp*

dark - ness, in\_ dark - ness, yet seek-ing the light.

*pp* *ppp*

dark - ness\_ in dark - ness, yet seek-ing the light.

*pp* *ppp*

dark - ness, in dark - ness, yet seek-ing the light.

42 *A tempo* *p* *mf* *f* *poco rit.*

To you "Come, Lord Je - sus!"

*p* *mf* *f*

To you we say, "Come, Lord Je - sus!"

*p* *mf*

To you we say,

*p* *mf*

To you we say,

46 *pp*

*pp*

As chant, senza misura

*p* (.) >

Ro - ra - te coe - li de - su - per — et nu - bes plu - ant ju - stum.\*

unis.

*p* (.) >

Ro - ra - te coe - li de - su - per — et nu - bes plu - ant ju - stum.\*

47 *p* **A tempo** **poco rit.**

*p* A - men, a - -

A - - men, a - -

*p* A - men, a - -

*p* A - men, a - -

\*Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just

Molto rit.

50 *mp* *mf*

-men, a - - -

-men, a - - -

-men, a - - -

*mp* a - men,

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, measures 50 and 51. It features four staves. The top three staves are vocal parts in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a bass line in bass clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are '-men, a - - -'.

52 *p* *pp*

-men. a - men.

-men. a - men.

-men. a - - - men.

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, measures 52 and 53. It features four staves. The top three staves are vocal parts in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a bass line in bass clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo). The lyrics are '-men. a - men.' and '-men. a - - - men.'.