

# *An Advent Litany*

for Cantor, Choir, Congregation  
Organ and optional Handbells

Peter R. Hallock

1990

Text by  
Carl G. Carlozzi

edited by Carl Crosier

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**Choir Edition**

**CH-1041**

### *From the Author*

In writing a text for the Advent Litany, it has been my aim to honor the images that sustain us from memory and tradition, and also to provide reference to those images that are known to us in the present. In regard to the later, I cite two: the urgent need for petitions regarding our stewardship of God's creation—Mother Earth, and our necessity to express ourselves in a language that embraces the needs of all human beings.

The Reverend Carl G. Carlozzi

### *From the Composer*

It was my good fortune to attend lectures on the Advent Season given by The Reverend Geoffrey Butcher at the Church Music Conference Evergreen, Colorado in 1990. Dr. Butcher brought us a vision of the Advent Season as a time of quiet, joyful expectation in contrast to the conditioned observance of Advent as a time of somber and penitential reflection.

With such a vision in mind I felt an urgent need to discontinue the traditional use of the Great Litany at St. Mark's Cathedral on the First Sunday of Advent and replace it with a Litany more consistent with Dr. Butcher's model. With the support of Dean Northup, who wrote the initial text, the first use of the Advent Litany took place in December 1990. I wish to extend my deep gratitude to Geoffrey Butcher for his vision, Dean Northup for the opportunity to present the Litany in 1990 at St. Mark's, and to Carl G. Carlozzi for the final text and his generous and ingratiating support.

Dr. Peter R. Hallock

### *From the Editor*

AN ADVENT LITANY is an extended prayer of joyful preparation set in responsorial style for use during the season of Advent.

In the early Church such prayers were associated with long processions asking for God's mercy and protection for the crops. Processional litanies were first used during the late fifth century on the three days before Ascension. Eventually the form was adopted throughout the Western Church and prescribed for use on days of special devotion.

The repetition of set responses gives the Litany its essential character. This Advent Litany is divided into six sections (Salutation, Confession, Preparation, Statements of the Christian faith, Prayers for various conditions, Kyrie) each separated by an organ interlude. It is especially appropriate on the Sundays of Advent, particularly the First Sunday. It may be used as the Entrance Rite for the Holy Communion. When so used, it is followed immediately by the Liturgy of the Word of God.

The musical setting provided here was conceived specifically for processional use, dramatizing our passage through this world toward that which is to come. The procession should encircle the entire assembly, reminding us that Christ's mercy surrounds us on every side.

For this edition, Peter Hallock has written out the organ improvisations. However, those skilled in the art of improvisation are encouraged to extemporize their own accompaniments and interludes, using the basic harmonic structures as their guide.

Although the handbell peals add a wonderful color and punctuation to the musical setting, their use is considered to be entirely optional. If bells are used, they may be played by the choristers or by a separate Handbell Choir placed in the midst of the procession. The bells should be allowed to vibrate without damping. The bell chords were conceived for Flemish-style bells. If English-style bells are used, it is recommended that additional pitches be added for brilliance and sonority. When handbells are not used, the organist may wish to accompany the solo cantor verses to help maintain the pitch.

It is important that the cantor and organist perform the litany from our edition **CH-1041C**. Our publication **CH-1041Ant** is for use by the Congregation.

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Notes compiled by Carl Crosier from *Commentary on the American Prayer Book* by Marion J. Hatchett, © 1980 and *Manual on the Liturgy, The Lutheran Book of Worship*, © 1979 by Augsburg Publishing House.

to The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Butcher

# AN ADVENT LITANY

for Cantor, Choir, Congregation, Organ and optional Handbells

Text by CARL G. CARLOZZI

Music by PETER R. HALLOCK  
edited by Carl Crosier

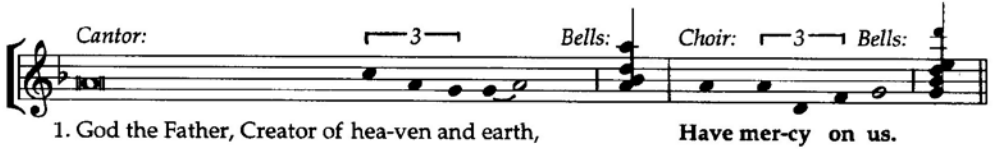
Bells used:

(Choir Edition)

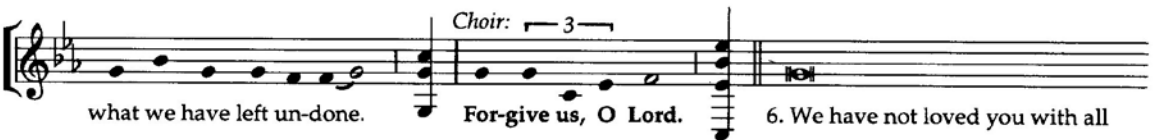
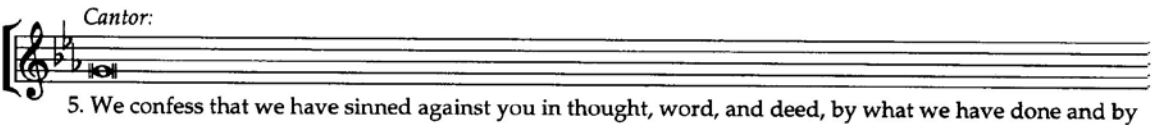
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Voices

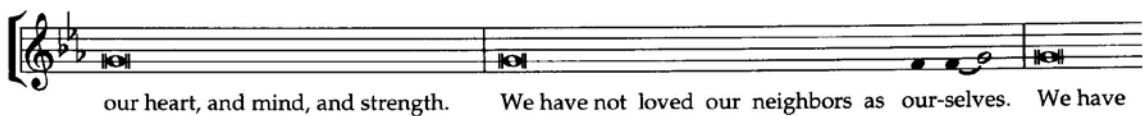


## FIRST ORGAN INTERLUDE



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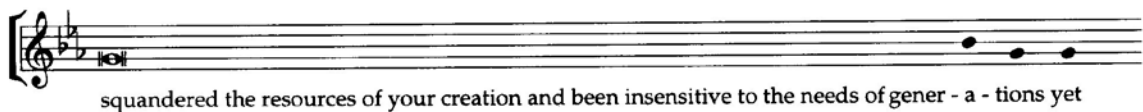
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our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as our-selves. We have



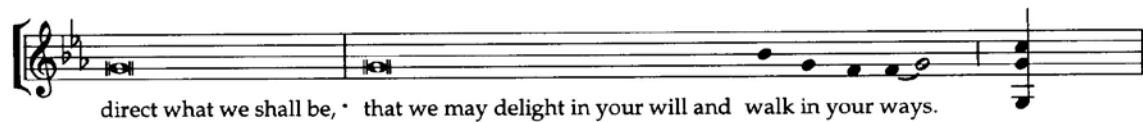
not forgiven others as we have been for-giv - en. For-give us, O Lord. 7. We have



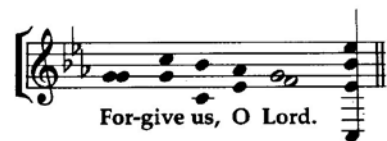
squandered the resources of your creation and been insensitive to the needs of gener - a - tions yet



to come. For-give us, O Lord. 8. Forgive what we have been, amend what we are,



direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.

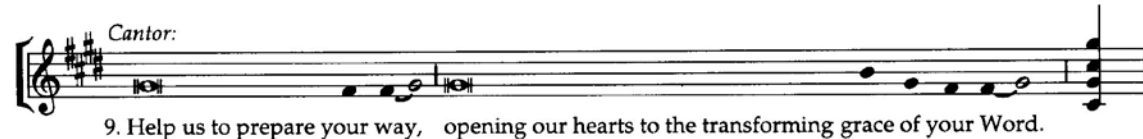


For-give us, O Lord.

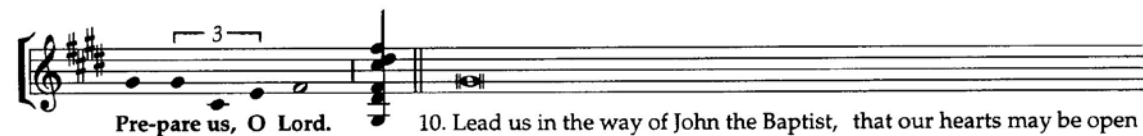


### SECOND ORGAN INTERLUDE

*Cantor:*



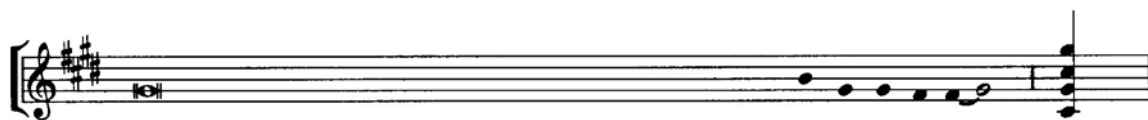
9. Help us to prepare your way, opening our hearts to the transforming grace of your Word.



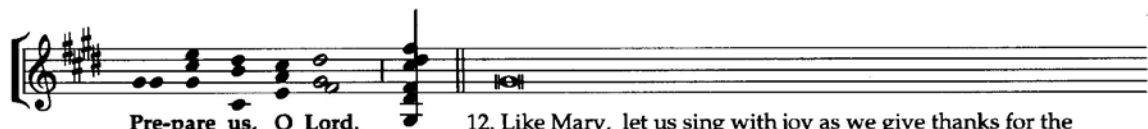
Pre-pare us, O Lord. 10. Lead us in the way of John the Baptist, that our hearts may be open



to receive the gift of the One who is to come. Pre-pare us, O Lord.



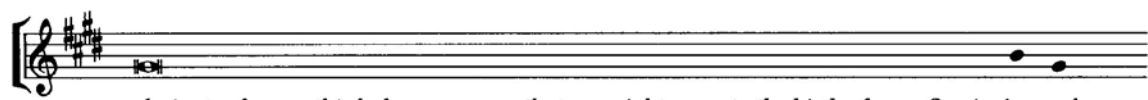
11. Let us hear again the message of Gabriel and ponder anew the mir - a - cle of life.



Pre-*pare us, O Lord.* 12. Like Mary, let us sing with joy as we give thanks for the



com-*ing of the Sa - vior.* Pre-*pare us, O Lord.* 13. Fill us, O Lord, with the



desire to observe this holy season, so that we might come to the birth of your Son in joy and



ex-*pec-ta - tion.* Pre-*pare us, O Lord.*



### THIRD ORGAN INTERLUDE

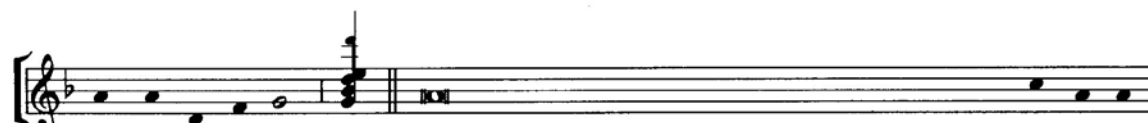


*Cantor:*

14. Your will is justice and respect for the dig-*ni-ty of all peo - ple.* Re-*mind us, O Lord.*



15. Your will is empowering love, giving us courage to bear the bur-*dens of life.*



Re-*mind us, O Lord.* 16. Your will is peace, comfort to the troubled conscience and hope for new

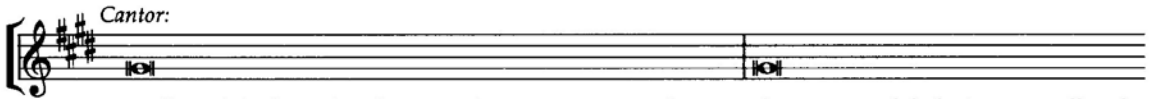


be-*gin - nings.* Re-*mind us, O Lord.*

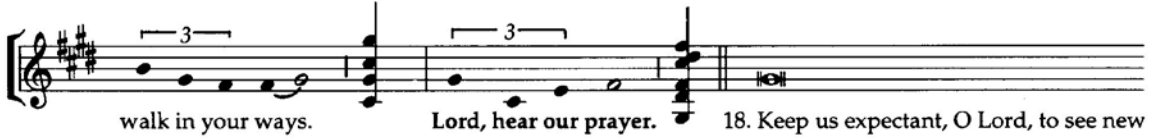


FOURTH ORGAN INTERLUDE

*Cantor:*

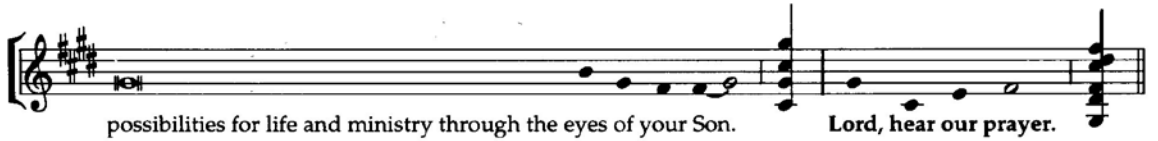


17. In all our life, O Lord, enliven our hopes, inspire our dreams, that we may delight in your will and

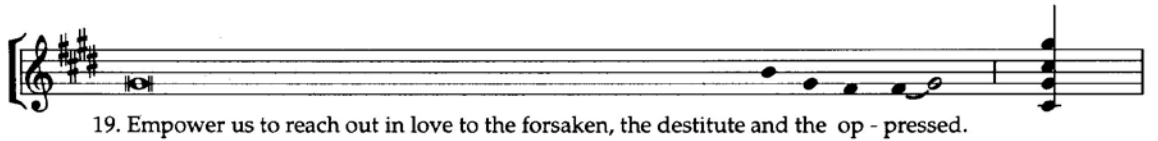


walk in your ways. Lord, hear our prayer.

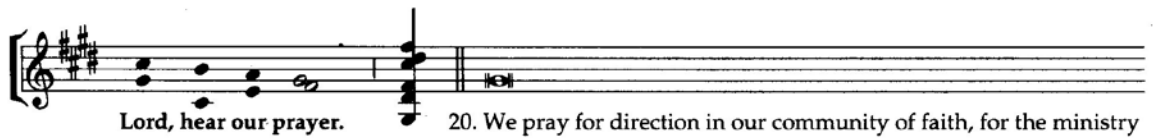
18. Keep us expectant, O Lord, to see new



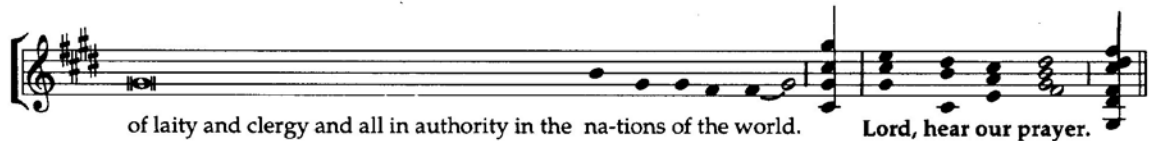
possibilities for life and ministry through the eyes of your Son. Lord, hear our prayer.



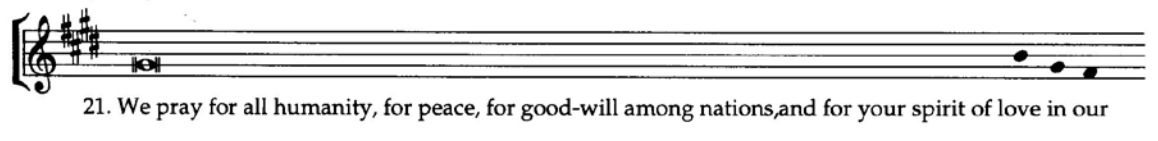
19. Empower us to reach out in love to the forsaken, the destitute and the op - pressed.



Lord, hear our prayer. 20. We pray for direction in our community of faith, for the ministry



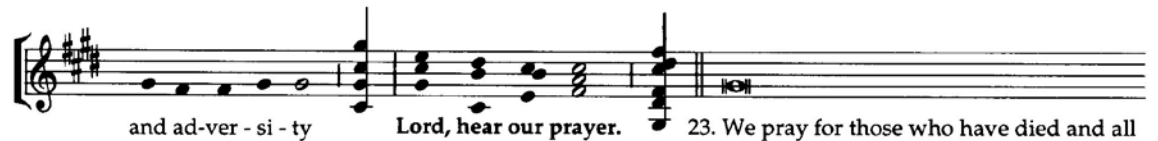
of laity and clergy and all in authority in the na-tions of the world. Lord, hear our prayer.



21. We pray for all humanity, for peace, for good-will among nations, and for your spirit of love in our



hearts. Lord, hear our prayer. 22. We pray for all who are ill and those in trou-ble



and ad-ver - si - ty Lord, hear our prayer. 23. We pray for those who have died and all



who are the vessels of God's grace in ev-'ry gen-er - a - tion. Lord, hear our prayer.

## FIFTH ORGAN INTERLUDE

*Cantor:* Lord, have mer-cy. *Choir:* Christ, have mer-cy. *Cantor:* Lord, have mer-cy.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is for the Cantor and Choir, and the lower staff is for the organ accompaniment. The Cantor part has three phrases: "Lord, have mer-cy.", "Christ, have mer-cy.", and "Lord, have mer-cy.". The Choir part has one phrase: "Christ, have mer-cy.". The organ accompaniment provides a simple harmonic support for the vocal lines.

*Cantor:*

The second system begins with a Cantor part on a single treble clef staff. The notation shows a few notes, likely the beginning of a longer phrase.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the

*Slow and deliberate.*

*Choir:* Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ev - er. A - men. *mp*

*Organ:* Congregation: A - men. *mf* *pp*

The second system of music features three parts: Choir, Organ, and Congregation. The Choir part is on a single treble clef staff and includes the lyrics "Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ev - er. A - men." with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The Organ part is on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and includes the lyrics "Congregation: A - men." with mezzo-forte (*mf*) and pianissimo (*pp*) dynamics. The tempo is marked "Slow and deliberate."

