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### **Contents**

Preface	4
Topical Contents	5
The Hymns	6
Index of Publications	82
Index of Copyright Holders	84
Index of Composers, Authors, and Sources	84
Liturgical Index	85
Topical Index	86
Scriptural Index	90
Index of Tunes	91
Metrical Index of Tunes	91
First Lines and Titles	92

#### **Preface**

The heart of MorningStar's publishing vision has always been to encourage congregational song. Within the Seasons of Our Lives is a collection of hymns and songs, some new with this compilation and some drawn from published choral anthems and other editions, compiled especially for congregational singing. This may be considered a companion volume to Break Forth in Joyous Song, published by MorningStar Music Publishers in 2006.

The hymns and songs fall into several categories: new texts with established tunes, established texts with new tunes, and new texts with new tunes, including short-form songs—often called ostinato refrains—that are intended to be repeated multiple times. This last genre of music lends itself to adaptation to specific worship needs. The amount of repetition should be determined by use, and it is often appropriate to "layer" the performance, beginning simply and quietly, building on repetition, and possibly tapering off to end the piece.

The collection begins with hymns organized by church year and ceremonies/rituals and continues in alphabetical order by topic. It includes useful index material, such as topical and scriptural indexes for help in worship planning. An index of tunes and their meters will assist in creating new pairings of texts and tunes—a wonderful option when a particular congregation is not familiar with the given tune. With this in mind, some alternate tunes are suggested—or even included—to increase usefulness. The index of publications gives information about full versions of many of the titles.

Melody-only versions, for inclusion in worship bulletins, are available to purchasers of this collection. Contact MorningStar Music for more information.

The Church continues to look for new words and music for worship, whether for times of celebration and joy or times of challenge and pain. Many of today's writers and composers are addressing this need with commitment and creativity. It is our hope that these hymns and songs will help give voice to the many facets of today's Church and be a source of inspiration and devotion to all who use them.

—The Publisher

# **Topical Contents**

CHURCH YEAR	Comfort and Healing
Advent	Comfort, Comfort, My People 21
A Flickering Candle	Be Still and Know
Come, Lord Jesus	Jesus Walked among the People (Biery) 23
Prepare the Way of the Lord (Browning) 3	Jesus Walked among the People 24
Prepare the Way of the Lord! (Burkhardt) 4	(RESTORATION)
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love5	Commitment
Christmas	Lord, among the Many Mercies 25
The Gift of Angels 6	What Can We Say But "Glory Be!" 26
The Gitt of Aligeis	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 27
Lent	, ,
Out of the Deep	Creation
out of the Beep	Soft Mist Is Rising
Holy Week	I Feel the Moss beneath My Feet
Love Consecrates the Humblest Act 8	·
Father, If This Cup Cannot Pass	Discipleship
Tutilet, if this cup cumot tuss	God Is Love 30
Easter	God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 31
Sing with All the Saints in Glory	Clouds of Witnesses
Now Life Rises in the Morning	
I Saw Water Freely Flowing	Mission and Ministry
1 Saw Water Freely Flowing	Go Forth and Preach the Gospel
Pentecost	God Has Called Us
Veni Sancte Spiritus	Church of God, Elect and Glorious 35
vem ounce opinius	The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
Trinity	<u>ı</u>
If I Say That You Are Holy (Burkhardt) 14	Praise and Thanksgiving
If I Say That You Are Holy (BEACH SPRING) 15	All Thanks Be to God
in row) muc row more rosely (BERTON OF TAIL OF THE	Alleluia, Praise to Jesus!
	Holy Is the Lord
CELEBRATIONS / RITES	Psalm 30
Baptism	
In Christ an Inheritance Is Ours	Salvation
	God So Loved the World 41
New Life You Grant, O God 17	Above the Voices of the World around Me 42
Marriage	
Within the Seasons of Our Lives	Trust
Within the Seasons of Our Lives	Vencerá el Amor / Love Shall Overcome 43
	Standing at This Threshold Moment 44
TOPICS	O Love That Casts Out Fear45
	Blest Are the Eyes That Have Not Seen You 46
Angels	7 7
The Gift of Angels	Unity
Planing	Christ Is the Vine
Blessing Crace and Beaca to You	Joined Together As One Body
Grace and Peace to You	,

# A Flickering Candle





This hymn may be sung during the lighting of Advent candles, or at other times during Advent. Alternate Verse 2 texts, related to the first lessons for the Sundays in Advent for Years B and C, are provided below.

#### Verse 2, Year B

#### Advent I

 Come down, Q Lord, do not delay; In sin's dark night we long for day. Your presence is the warming ray That kindles all creation.

#### Advent 2

God's messenger prepares the way.
 On sin he shines a piercing ray;
 He bids us greet the dawning day.
 Renewed and purified.

#### Advent 3

2. Though night is long, do not grow weak,
To all who suffer, clearly speak:
"The Lord, the Savior whom you seek,
Behold, is come among you!"

#### Advent 4

 From Jesse's barren stump will spring A noble branch, a righteous King; To earth's despairing lands he'll bring Both justice and salvation.

#### Verse 2, Year C

#### Advent 1

 From Jesse's barren stump will spring A noble branch, a righteous King; To earth's despairing lands he'll bring Both justice and salvation.

#### Advent 2

 God's messenger prepares the way, On sin he shines a piercing ray; He bids us greet the dawning day Renewed and purified.

#### Advent 3

 Though night is long, do not grow weak, To all who suffer, clearly speak: "The Lord, the Savior whom you seek, Behold, is come among you!"

#### Advent 4

 The dawn of God's redeeming grace Lit Bethlehem, that humble place, Now radiant beams from Jesus' face Illumine all creation.

## Come, Lord Jesus

Carol Browning

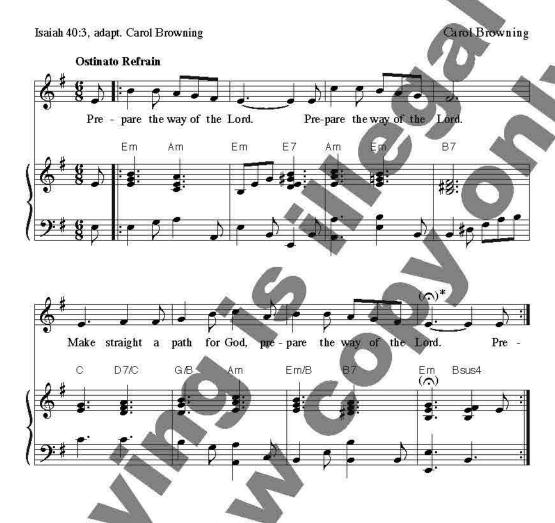
Carol Browning
Alt. accompaniments by Kathy McGrath



This Advent refrain is intended to be repeated several times as an ostinato, with the optional accompaniment variations, choral harmonies, and/or canon between women's and men's voices adding variety on repetitions. It could also serve as a call to worship, perhaps leading directly into 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."



## Prepare the Way of the Lord



\*Observe fermata last time only

Like the previous piece, this simple refrain for Advent is intended to be repeated several times, or could serve as a call to worship, perhaps before "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

## **First Lines and Titles**

A Flickering Candle	Lord, among the Many Mercies 25 Love Consecrates the Humblest Act 8
around Me All Thanks Be to God	Love Shall Overcome
All with joyful exultation 40	N 1:6 V 6 ( 0.6 1 17
Alleluia, Praise to Jesus!	New Life You Grant, O God
Be Still and Know	O Love That Casts Out Fear45
Beloved, let us love one another 30 Blest Are the Eyes That Have Not 46 Seen You	Out of the Deep
	Prepare the Way of the Lord3
Christ Is the Vine	(Browning)
Church of God, Elect and Glorious35	Prepare the Way of the Lord!4 (Burkhardt)
Clouds of Witnesses	Psalm 30
Come, Lord Jesus	1 sum 50
Come, Thou Fount of Every27 Blessing	Quiet starlight, shepherds dozing6
Comfort, Comfort, My People 21	Sing with All the Saints in Glory10
	Soft Mist Is Rising
Father, If This Cup Cannot Pass 9	Standing at This Threshold
Go Forth and Preach the Gospel 33	
God Has Called Us	The Gift of Angels
God Is Love	The Gift of Angels (Christmas)6
God So Loved the World41	The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve $\dots$ 36
God, Whose Giving Knows No31	
Ending Grace and Peace to You20	Vencerá el Amor /
Grace and reace to fou20	Love Shall Overcome
Holy Is the Lord39	Veni Sancte Spiritus
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love5	ANT OF ANY OF PRINCIPLE
	What Can We Say But "Glory Be!" 26 When someone who, surprised 26
I Feel the Moss beneath My Feet 29	by grace Winging 'round you, warmly 19
I Saw Water Freely Flowing	glowing
(BEACH SPRING)	Within the Seasons of Our Lives18
If I Say That You Are Holy	
In Christ an Inheritance Is Ours16	
Jesus Walked among the People 23 (Biery)	
Jesus Walked among the People 24 (RESTORATION)	
Joined Together As One Body 48	