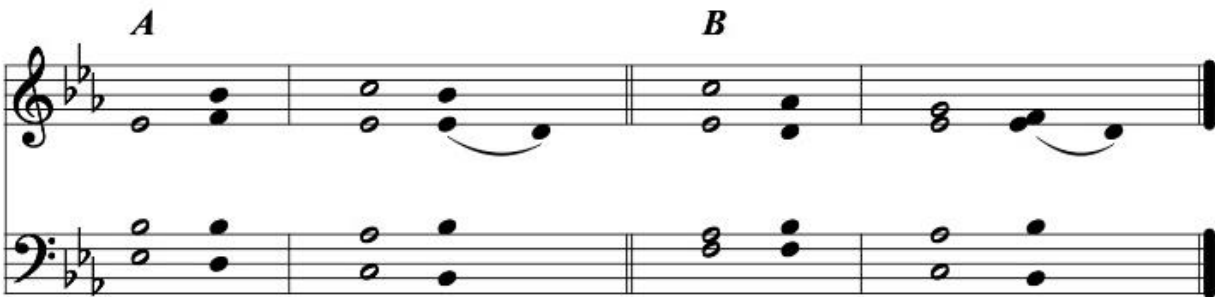


Music Notes for December 10, 2023

Today is the fifth Sunday of St. A's extended Advent Season in Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary. Listen to the Advent service music: [Presentation Hymn](#), [Sanctus](#), and [Fraction Anthem](#).

The Simplified Anglican Chant psalm tone is below, to which the words of Psalm 85 will be sung:



Listen to the chant for Psalm 85 [here](#).

The prelude today is a set of variations on the opening hymn, "Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding," based on the tune "Merton." William H. Monk (b. Brompton, London, England, 1823; d. London, 1889) composed the tune and published it in *The Parish Choir* (1850). The tune has been associated with this text since the 1861 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune's title is thought to refer to Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College, Oxford, England. The text of the hymn is possibly as old as the fifth century. It is based on the Latin hymn *Vox clara ecce intonat*. The hymn is most useful for Advent because it permits various interpretations of Christ's coming. Stanzas 1-3 contain references to Christ's first coming, but they can be used to celebrate his second coming as well. Stanza 4 surely refers to the second coming, and stanza 5, the only stanza addressed to God, is a doxology.

The Sequence Hymn is another favorite Advent hymn, "On Jordan's Bank." John the Baptist's announcement "Prepare the way for the Lord" (Matt. 3:3, a quote from Isa. 40:3) is the primary basis for this Advent hymn. Stanzas 1 and 2 apply that message to people today; stanza 3 is a confession by God's people of their need for salvation; stanza 4 is a prayer for healing and love; stanza 5 is a doxology.

Today's anthem, "Let me love you, O Christ" is an *a capella* setting composed by Ronald Turner (b. 1946), Professor of Church Music for 37 years at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The text is a prayer by Eric Milner White that is a meditation on both the first and second comings of Christ – so perfect for the Advent season.