

# God of the Future

New Hymntunes  
of  
Alfred V. Fedak



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**God of the Future: New Hymntunes of Alfred V. Fedak**  
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# Introduction

Hymn tunes are a unique and fascinating musical form. For as music intended to be performed mostly by unrehearsed non-musicians at primarily non-musical events (i.e., worship services), hymn tunes require special attention and care in their composition. Hymn tunes need to be crafted in such a way that untrained singers, even at first encounter, feel drawn from note to note naturally, comfortably, and inevitably. At the same time, a hymn tune must never sound trite or childish. Its musical content must be sufficiently substantial to withstand repetition across multiple stanzas, and should, in an artful way, embody compositional techniques and features found in larger musical forms, albeit on a microscopic scale. The brevity of hymn tunes means that their every note, harmony, and rhythm must be carefully considered. In this most miniature of musical forms, there is no room for padding, and a single misplaced pitch or rhythm, or mis-voiced chord, can render ineffective even an otherwise perfectly serviceable tune.

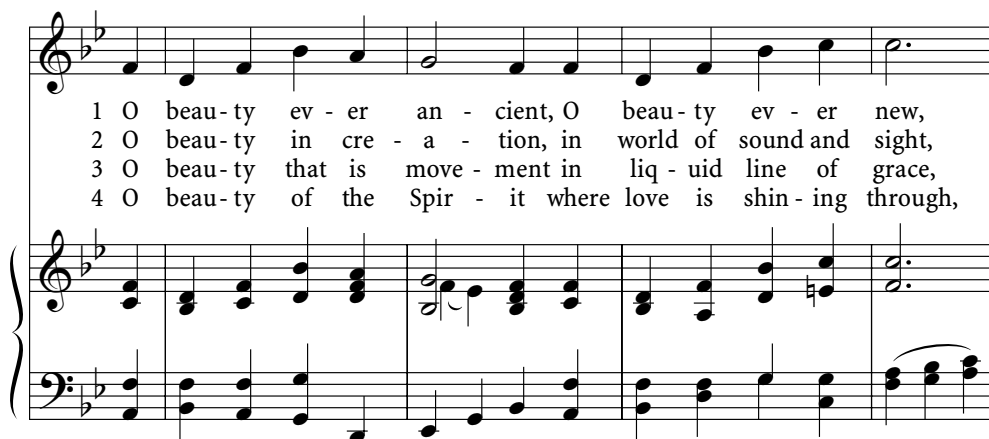
But perhaps most importantly, a good hymn tune should match, in form, meter, rhythm, spirit, and inflection, the poetry with which it is paired. A good hymn tune elucidates, amplifies, and to some extent, interprets the words with which it is paired. This fact imposes important responsibilities upon the composer, since, paradoxically, it is the composer, and not the poet, who puts words into people's mouths. First, the composer has a responsibility to select and set only the best texts which he or she finds congenial: this involves seeking out poetry which has literary merit and an inherent lyricism, and which is both scripturally and theologically sound. Secondly, the composer's main concern must be to let these words speak for themselves. The mark of a successful hymn tune is the extent to which it projects the meaning and message of its text-mate, without calling attention to itself in the process.

I am most grateful for the work of all the fine poets whose words appear in this, my third collection of hymn tunes, and earnestly hope that I have indeed succeeded in permitting their words to speak through my music. I am indebted, of course, to David and Virginia Schaap of Selah Publishing Co., publishers of all my hymntunes since 1990, for the release of this volume, and to Carl Daw, one of whose hymns gave this little book its title. Finally, as always, I am most indebted to my wife Susan for her constant encouragement and love.

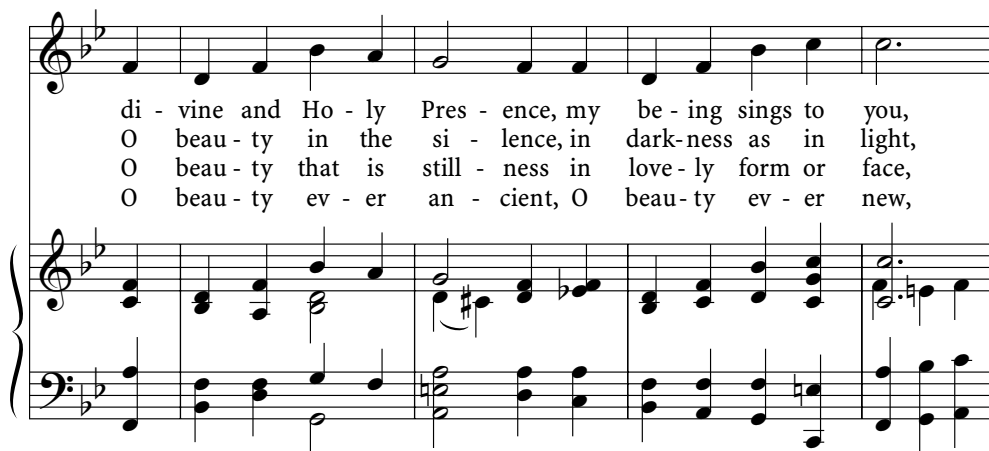
*Soli Deo Gloria*

–Alfred V. Fedak  
Eastertide, 2009  
Albany, N.Y.

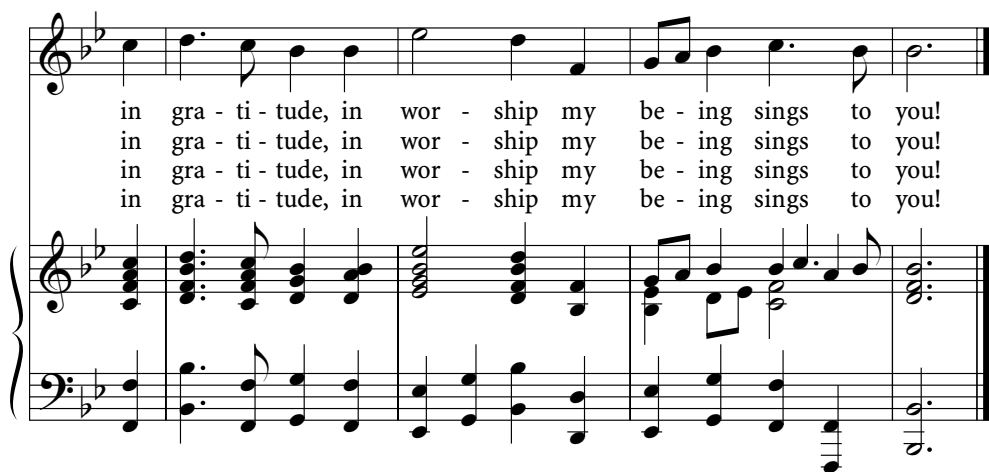
# O Beauty Ever Ancient • ANCIENT BEAUTY 1



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau-ty ev - er new,  
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,  
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,  
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



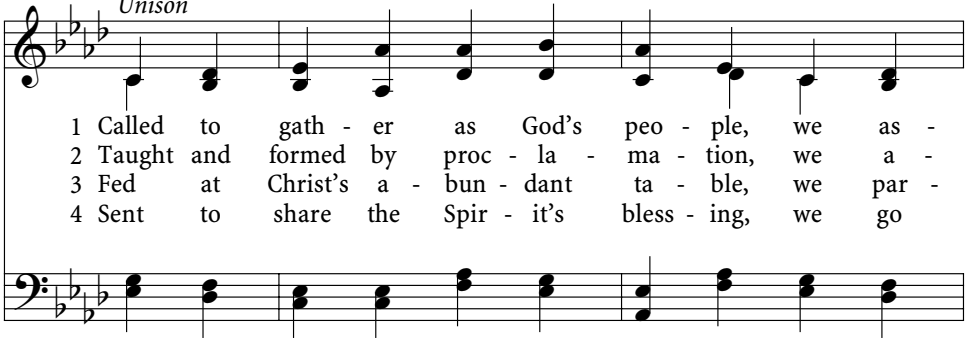
di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,  
O beau-ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,  
O beau-ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,  
O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau-ty ev - er new,



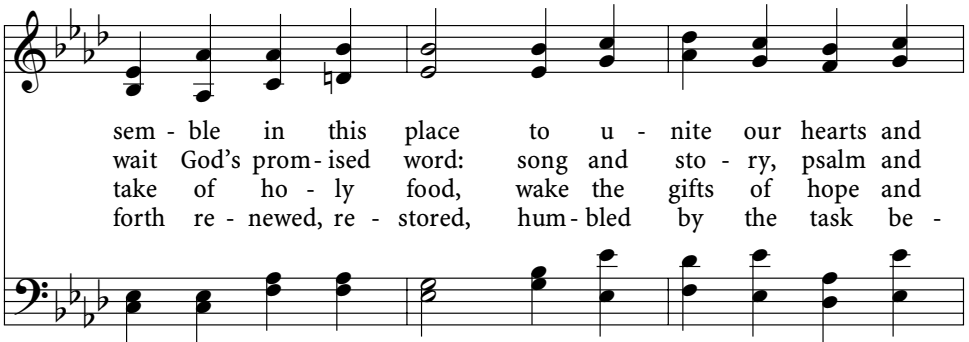
in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!  
in gra - ti - tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

## 2 AUSTIN SEMINARY • Called to Gather

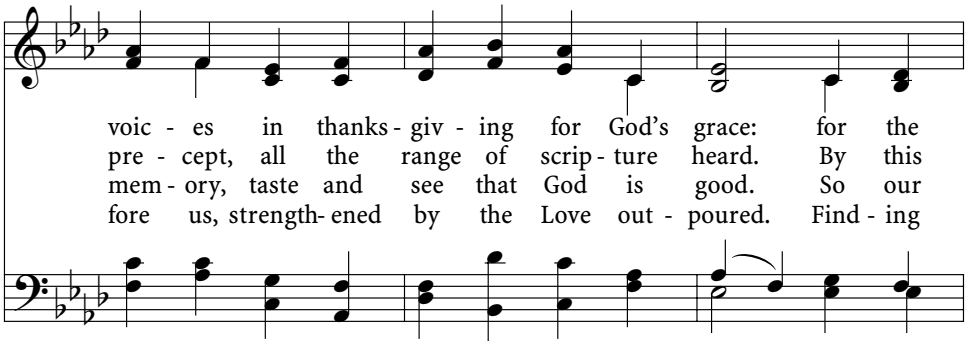
*Unison*



1 Called to gath - er as God's peo - ple, we as -  
2 Taught and formed by proc - la - ma - tion, we a -  
3 Fed at Christ's a - bun - dant ta - ble, we par -  
4 Sent to share the Spir - it's bless - ing, we go



sem - ble in this place to u - nite our hearts and  
wait God's prom - ised word: song and sto - ry, psalm and  
take of ho - ly food, wake the gifts of hope and  
forth re - newed, re - stored, hum - bled by the task be -



voic - es in thanks - giv - ing for God's grace: for the  
pre - cept, all the range of scrip - ture heard. By this  
mem - ory, taste and see that God is good. So our  
fore us, strength - ened by the Love out - poured. Find - ing

birth - ing of cre - a - tion, for Christ's ris - ing from death's  
 an - cient, liv - ing wit - ness we are sum - moned to con -  
 min - gled lives are tak - en, blessed and bro - ken for Christ's  
 faith con - firmed in ac - tion, led by hope through each new

hold, for the com - ing of the Spir - it, week by  
 fess how we fall short, yet can trust that God will  
 sake, giv - en out to feed and com - fort bod - ies,  
 day, we are called to be God's peo - ple, liv - ing

week claimed and re - told.  
 hear, for - give, and bless.  
 minds, and hearts that ache.

what we sing and pray.

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# May Peace Abide in Us • BENISON 3

1 May peace a - bide in us till  
2 May jus - tice live in us till  
3 May love flow forth from us till

that en - vi - sioned day when none shall fear or  
we walk in the light by which the just live  
peo - ple share the bliss which draws the world in

make a - fraid and peace has come to stay.  
out their faith pur - su - ing truth and right.  
such em - brace that peace and jus - tice kiss.

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