

# We Come, O Christ



*Text by* Carl P. Daw, Jr.  
*Music by* Russell Schulz-Widmar  
and Alfred V. Fedak



Selah Publishing Co.

## We Come, O Christ

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Carl P. Daw, Jr.'s text "We Come, O Christ" was commissioned by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, and was first sung at a festival of Daw's hymns there on March 10, 1993. In writing this hymn for seminarians, the informing biblical event was the appeal to Jesus for special consideration of James and John (Matthew 20:20–28 and Mark 10:35–45). The third line of stanza three adapts line 40 of John Donne's "Good Friday 1613. Riding Westward." The fourth stanza was written at the request of Russell Schulz-Widmar especially for this anthem version. Its scriptural references are Matthew 11:29–30 and Matthew 6:10/Luke 11:2.

Alfred V. Fedak's hymn tune RATHERVUE connects this hymn text with The Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, where both Daw and Fedak, along with four other people engaged in the making of hymns, were Visiting Fellows during two weeks in February 1995. The tune name commemorates the street on which the seminary is located. Russell Schulz-Widmar has been Associate Professor of Church Music, Organist and Choirmaster at The Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, in Austin, Texas, since 1974.

Alternate Introduction

Resonant

We come, O

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a rest for two measures, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, starting with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, starting with a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. A large diagonal watermark 'FOR REVIEW ONLY' is overlaid across the score.

Celebrating the establishment of The John Hines Chair of Preaching,  
Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas

# We Come, O Christ

SATB, organ

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Russell Schulz-Widmar  
based on the tune RATHERVUE by Alfred V. Fedak

*Resonant*

*f*

4

8

13 Unison *f*

We come, O Christ, as—peo - ple seek - ing some sign of bless - ing on our

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Hymn tune RATHERVUE and harmony of stanza 1 by Alfred V. Fedak, © 1995 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

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17

lives, yet scarce-ly pause to—hear you speak - ing or wait un - til your time ar -

21

rives: help us let go, help us be still, in pa-tience may—— we learn your

25

S.A. *mf*

will. To taste the cross with - in the chal - ice, to hear the mu-sic born of

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30 T.B.

grief, to feel the hurt con-cealed by mal - ice, to sense in doubt un - ripe be-

34 S.A.

give us, O God, new hearts, new eyes; wake us to love \_\_\_\_\_ and make us

T.B.  
lief: give us, O God, new hearts, new eyes; wake us to love \_\_\_\_\_ and make us

38 Harmony or Unison *mp*

wise. Re - new - ing Spir - it, come breathe through \_\_\_\_\_ us with hope that

wise.

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42

heals, with faith \_\_\_\_\_ that thrills; \_\_\_\_\_ burn off the sins \_\_\_\_\_ still - cling - ing

Musical notation for measures 42-44, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

45

to \_\_\_\_\_ us, trans - form our minds, con - vert \_\_\_\_\_ our wills: \_\_\_\_\_ so may your

Musical notation for measures 45-47, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

48

gifts \_\_\_\_\_ of grace in - crease \_\_\_\_\_ to send us forth \_\_\_\_\_ in love and

Musical notation for measures 48-50, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

51

peace.

Musical notation for measures 51-52, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

*mf* *cresc. poco a poco* *Allargando*

Piano accompaniment for measures 51-52, including dynamic markings and tempo changes.

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56 Optional descant *a tempo*

SATB.  
U - nite our hearts and shape our liv - ing to share

59

the yoke that sets us free: great God, joined by self -  
yoke that sets us free: great Tri - une God, joined by self -

62

giv - ing, the life of true com - mu - ni - ty, our prayers -  
giv - ing, the life of true com - mu - ni - ty, our man - y

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65

make one: "Your king - dom come, your will be

prayers at last make one: "Your king- dom come, your will be

*rall.*

68

done."

done."

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system (measures 65-72) features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines have lyrics: "make one: 'Your king - dom come, your will be" and "prayers at last make one: 'Your king- dom come, your will be". The piano accompaniment includes a *rall.* marking. The second system (measures 68-72) features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal lines have lyrics: "done." and "done.". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and melodic lines.