

O Silence

Genevieve Glen, OSB

John Foley, S.J.
UNHEARD, LM

INTRO *Quiet, not too slow* ($\text{♩} = 50$)

Keyboard

p

B \flat Gm C Am D

VERSE 1Baritone section *p*

1. O Si - lence so - no - rous with Word,

Dm A Dm A/E Dm/F A7(#5) Dm

1. O Breath un - seen of Love un - heard,

B \flat F C F F/E G/D Em A

1. O un - con - sum - ing Fire, dark Light,

D B \flat Am/C Am7/E Dm/F G C

rit.

1. We wor - ship at the edge of night.

A B \flat Gm C Am D

rit.

VERSE 2

Soprano *a tempo*

Alto

2. O God be - yond all speech or thought,

Dm A Dm A/E Dm/F A7(#5) Dm

a tempo

2. O God in song half - hid, half - caught,

B \flat F C F F/E G/D Em A

2. O God for hu - man mind too much,

D B \flat Am/C Am7/E Dm/F G C

rit.

2. In crib and cross and bread we touch.

A B \flat Gm C Am D

rit.

VERSE 3

a tempo

3. O time - less One in maj - es - ty,

a tempo

Dm A Dm A/E Dm/F A7(#5) Dm

3. O in - di - vis - i - ble yet Three,

B \flat F C F F/E G/D Em A

3. O Source and Sab - bath of our days,

D Bb Am/C Am7/E Dm/F G C

3. Ac - cept, ac - cept our stam - mered praise.

rit.

A Bb Gm C Am D

rit.

O Silence

(Guitar/Vocal)

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INTRO *Quiet, not too slow* (♩ = 50)

VERSES

p $B\flat$ Gm C Am D (a tempo) Dm A Dm A/E
 (Keyboard)

1. O Si - lence so - no -
 2. O God be - yond all
 3. O time - less One in

Dm/F A7(#5) Dm $B\flat$ F C F F/E G/D Em

1. rous with Word, O Breath un - seen of Love un -
 2. speech or thought, O God in song half - hid, half -
 3. maj - es - ty, O in - di - vis - i - ble yet

A D $B\flat$ Am/C Am7/E Dm/F G C

1. heard, O un - con - sum - ing Fire, dark Light,
 2. caught, O God for hu - man mind too much,
 3. Three, O Source and Sab - bath of our days,

A $B\flat$ Gm C *rit.* Am

1, 2
D

Final
D

D.S.

1. We wor - ship at the edge of night.
 2. In crib and cross and bread we touch.
 3. Ac - cept, ac - cept our stam - mered praise. _____

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Composer's Notes

O Silence is a contemplation of the mysterious, transcendental God who yet touches us intimately. Benedictine Sister Genevieve Glen's text uses paradoxical metaphors to express this: silence which somehow is filled with word and song, fire which does not burn things up, light which is also dark. My musical setting is very simple, reflecting this mystery. It can be used for prayer services, Benediction, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer, reconciliation services, Masses during Advent or especially Lent, and also during retreats. Adding the oboe brings a still deeper dimension to the piece.


—*John Foley, S.J.*
Saint Louis University

Preview


Assembly Edition

O SILENCE


John Foley, S.J.



1. O Si - lence so - no - rous with Word, O
 2. O God be - yond all speech or thought, O
 3. O time - less One in maj - es - ty, O



1. Breath un - seen of Love un - heard, O un - con - sum - ing
 2. God in song half - hid, half - caught, O God for hu - man
 3. in - di - vis - i - ble yet Three, O Source and Sab - bath



1. Fire, dark Light, We wor - ship at the edge of night.
 2. mind too much, In crib and cross and bread we touch.
 3. of our days, Ac - cept, ac - cept our stam - mered praise.

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