

O Silence

Genevieve Glen, OSB

John Foley, S.J.
UNHEARD, LM

INTRO *Quiet, not too slow* (♩ = 50)

Keyboard

p

B \flat Gm C Am D

VERSE 1

Baritone section *p*

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

Dm A 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

VERSE 2
Soprano *a tempo*

Alto

2. O God be - yond speech or thought,

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

a tempo

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

B \flat F C F E/F 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 Bb Gm Am D

VERSE 3

a tempo

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

a tempo

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

3. O in - di - i - b - yet Three,

Bb F C F F/E G/D Em A

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

D Bb Am/Dm/F G C

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top line is a vocal line in a soprano clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are "3. O Source and Sab - bath of our days,". The bottom line is a piano accompaniment in a bass clef. Chords are indicated below the piano line: D, Bb, Am/Dm/F, G, and C. A large, bold, black watermark "SAMPLE" is oriented vertically across the center of the page, partially overlapping this system.

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

A Bb Gm D

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of music. The top line is a vocal line in a soprano clef. The lyrics are "3. Ac - cept, ac - cept our stem - mered praise.". The bottom line is a piano accompaniment in a bass clef. Chords are indicated below the piano line: A, Bb, Gm, and D. A large, bold, black watermark "SAMPLE" is oriented vertically across the center of the page, partially overlapping this system.

O Silence

(Guitar/Vocal)

John Foley, S.J.
UNHEARD, LM

Genevieve Glen, OSB

INTRO *Quiet, not too slow* (♩ = 50)

B♭ Gm C

(Keyboard)

VERSES

(a tempo)

Dm A Dm A/E

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

Dm/F A7(#5) Dm B♭ 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♭ Am/C Am7/E Dm/F G C

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

A B♭ Gm C Am 1, 2 Final D

rit. *D.S.*

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



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

SAMPLE

Assembly Edition

O SILENCE

John Foley, S.J.

1. O Si - lence so no - tious with Word, O
 2. O God be - yond all 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 Source and Sab - bath

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

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