



We Read the Ancient Vision

Music by

Scot Crandal

Text by

Michael Joncas

We Read the Ancient Vision

Michael Joncas

ANCIENT, 76 76 D
Scot Crandal

INTRO (♩ = ca. 100)

Keyboard

Dm Gm7 Am7 Dsus4 D5

VERSES

Descant

3. When we con - spire with e - vil, righ - teous -
5. So come, O God of vi - sions, heal our

Soprano/Alto

1. We read the an - cient vi - sion With - in the
2. Yet how can we stay hope - ful While count - ing
3. When we con - spire with e - vil, Trade righ - teous -
4. When na - tions bris - tle con - flict, When pacts are
5. So come, O God of vi - sions, To heal our

Tenor/Bass

Dm Gm/D Am/D Gm/D Dm Dm7

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3. ness for lies, _____ deeds _____ of _____ dark - ness _____
 5. world of pain. _____ Rouse us from our slum - ber, _____

1. an - cient books: That _____ swords _____ be turned _____ to plow - shares
 2. up our dead, While _____ wars _____ and in - sur - rec - tions
 3. ness for lies, Com - mit - ting deeds _____ of dark - ness,
 4. torn and tossed, Ne - go - ti - a - tions fal - ter,
 5. world of pain. Come, _____ rouse _____ us from _____ our slum - ber,

G7/D E°/D Gm Am/G Gm

3. sleep - walk - ing _____ through our lives,
 5. stir up our _____ hope a - gain.

S
 A
 1. And spears to _____ prun - ing hooks, That war - ring hearts turn
 2. Re - main our _____ dai - ly bread, While in the heart's deep
 3. Sleep - walk - ing _____ through our lives, God's word sounds to a -
 4. And hope it - self seems lost, The proph - et's voice still
 5. Stir up our _____ hope a - gain. Re - new our falt - 'ring

T
 B

Bb A7sus4 A7 Bb/D Am/C

3. rouse us to o - pen slum - b'ring eyes: _____ "The ___
 5. cour - age and help us to be - lieve _____ The ___

1. gen - tle, And peace should grace our land: The ___
 2. cham - bers We strive a - gainst the light, The ___
 3. rouse us, To o - pen slum - b'ring eyes: "The ___
 4. ech - oes With - in our long - ing ears: "The ___
 5. cour - age And help us to be - lieve The ___

Gm/Bb F/A G Gsus2,4 G

3. long, dark night is end - ing; The ___
 5. long, dark night is end - ing, Your ___

1. long, _____ dark _____ night is end - ing; The ___
 2. long, _____ dark _____ night em - brac - ing; The ___
 3. long, _____ dark _____ night is end - ing; The ___
 4. long, _____ dark _____ night is end - ing; The ___
 5. long, _____ dark _____ night is end - ing, Your ___

Dm F/C Gm/Bb Am F/Eb Eb

3. day - star will a - rise.”
5. Day - star to re - ceive.

1. day - star is ___ at hand.
2. day - star not ___ in sight.
3. day - star will ___ a - rise.”
4. day - star draw - ing near.”
5. Day - star to ___ re - ceive.

Cm7 Dm7 G G/B 1-4 Cm Dm7 G5 D.S.

Opt. Interlude/Final
Cm Dsus4 Dm Ebmaj7 Gm/Bb F/A Cm7 Dm7 G5 * (D.S.)

*A B-natural may be added to the final chord if desired.

We Read the Ancient Vision

(Guitar/Vocal)

Michael Joncas

ANCIENT, 76 76 D

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INTRO (♩ = ca. 100)

Capo 5: (Am) Dm (Dm7) (Em7) (Asus4)(A5)
Gm7 Am7 Dsus4 D5

mp

(Kbd)

VERSES

(Am) (Dm/A) (Em/A)(Dm/A)(Am) (Am7) (D7/A) (B°/A)
Dm Gm/D Am/D Gm/D Dm Dm7 G7/D E°/D

1. We read the an - cient vi - sion With - in the an - cient books:
2. Yet how can we ___ stay hope - ful While count - ing up our dead,
3. When we con - spire ___ with e - vil, Trade righ - teous - ness for lies,
4. When na - tions bris - tle con - flict, When pacts are torn and tossed,
5. So come, O God ___ of vi - sions, To heal our world of pain.

(Dm) (Em/D) (Dm) (F)
Gm Am/G Gm Bb

1. That swords be turned ___ to plow - shares And spears to ___
2. While wars and in - sur - rec - tions Re - main our ___
3. Com - mit - ting deeds ___ of dark - ness, Sleep - walk - ing ___
4. Ne - go - ti - a - tions fal - ter, And hope it -
5. Come, rouse us from ___ our slum - ber, Stir up our ___

(E7sus4) (E7) (F/A) (Em/G) (Dm/F) (C/E)
A7sus4 A7 Bb/D Am/C Gm/Bb F/A

1. prun - ing hooks, That war - ring hearts turn gen - tle, ___ And
2. dai - ly bread, While in the heart's deep cham - bers ___ We
3. through our lives, God's word sounds to a - rouse us, ___ To
4. self seems lost, The proph - et's voice still ech - oes ___ With -
5. hope a - gain. Re - new our falt - 'ring cour - age ___ And

(D) (Dsus2,4) (D) (Am) (C/G) (Dm/F) (Em)
G Gsus2,4 G Dm F/C Gm/Bb Am

1. peace should grace our land: The ___ long, ___ dark ___ night is
2. strive a - gainst the light, The ___ long, ___ dark ___ night em -
3. o - pen slum - b'ring eyes: "The ___ long, ___ dark ___ night is
4. in our long - ing ears: "The ___ long, ___ dark ___ night is
5. help us to be - lieve The ___ long, ___ dark ___ night is

(C/Bb)	(Bb)	(Gm7)	(Am7)	(D)	(D/F#)	1-4	(Gm)	(Am7)	(D5)
F/Eb	Eb	Cm7	Dm7	G	G/B		Cm	Dm7	G5

1. end - ing; The ___ day - star is ___ at hand. ___
 2. brac - ing The ___ day - star not ___ in sight. ___
 3. end - ing; The ___ day - star will ___ a - rise." ___
 4. end - ing; The ___ day - star draw - ing near." ___
 5. end - ing; Your ___ Day - star to ___ re - ceive. ___

Opt. Interlude/Final									
(Gm)	(Asus4)	(Am)	(Bbmaj7)	(Dm/F)	(C/E)	(Gm7)	(Am7)	(D5)	
Cm	Dsus4	Dm	Ebmaj7	Gm/Bb	F/A	Cm7	Dm7	*G5	(D.S.)

*The final chord may be played as a G instead of G5 if desired.

Textwriter Notes

The First Sunday of Advent in Year A continues the eschatological themes that sound in the final weeks of Year C. Isaiah's prophecy envisions a world in which God's teachings will inform not only the people of Judah and Jacob, but all the nations of the world, bidding all to give up preparing for conflict and give their energies to productive care of the land. Psalm 122 embodies Isaiah's vision of going up to the mountain of the Lord's house in a pilgrimage hymn rejoicing at arrival in Jerusalem, the pilgrims' destiny. Jesus' vision in the Gospel reading emphasizes the suddenness with which the coming of the Son of Man will occur; believers are warned to stay prepared and vigilant for his advent. All these themes are brought together in Paul's words to the Romans, calling them to exhibit lives marked by the highest ethical standards as they await the coming of their salvation.

"We Read the Ancient Vision" focuses on the appointed passages from Isaiah and the Letter to the Romans. Each stanza concludes with word play on Romans 13:12a—"the night is advanced, the day is at hand"—which could serve as a motto for the season of Advent. Stanza 1 acknowledges that the vision of Isaiah for universal peace among humanity still remains a longing in human hearts. Stanza 2 articulates the difficulty believers and non-believers alike have in clinging to this prophetic vision when the course of human history seems so torn by violence and peace remains so fragile and fleeting. Stanzas 3 and 4 both acknowledge that human sinfulness dismantles the world of peace promised in Isaiah's vision, but declare that God's powerful Word continues to offer hope even in the midst of our sin. The hymn concludes in stanza 5 with a prayer to keep hope and courage in the vision of peace alive despite the vagaries of history. This prayer yokes 2 Peter 1:19 ("We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.") with Revelation 22:16 ("I, Jesus, ... am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star").

—Michael Joncas

Assembly Edition

WE READ THE ANCIENT VISION

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2. Yet how can we stay hope - ful While count - ing
3. When we con - spire with e - vil, Trade righ - teous -
4. When na - tions bris - tle con - flict, When pacts are
5. So come, O God of vi - sions, To heal our



1. an - cient books: That swords be turned to plow-shares
2. up our dead, While wars and in - sur - rec - tions
3. ness for lies, Com - mit - ting deeds of dark - ness,
4. torn and tossed, Ne - go - ti - a - tions fal - ter,
5. world of pain. Come, rouse us from our slum - ber,



1. And spears to prun - ing hooks, That war - ring hearts turn
2. Re - main our dai - ly bread, While in the heart's deep
3. Sleep-walk - ing through our lives, God's word sounds to a -
4. And hope it - self seems lost, The proph - et's voice still
5. Stir up our hope a - gain. Re - new our falt - 'ring



1. gen - tle, And peace should grace our land: The long, dark
2. cham - bers We strive a - gainst the light, The long, dark
3. rouse us, To o - pen slum-b'ring eyes: "The long, dark
4. ech - oes With - in our long - ing ears: "The long, dark
5. cour - age And help us to be - lieve The long, dark



1. night is end - ing; The day - star is at hand.
2. night em - brac - ing The day - star not in sight.
3. night is end - ing; The day - star will a - rise."
4. night is end - ing; The day - star draw - ing near."
5. night is end - ing, Your Day - star to re - ceive.

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