

The Spirituality of the Hymns of Advent Online Lecture with Fr. Harry Hagan

Advent has a great treasury of hymns that explore the spirituality possibilities of this season of desire. This evening will begin with an overview of some of those hymns and their historical development stretching from “Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth” by St. Ambrose (†397) through “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (1710) to John Brownlie’s “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” (1907) and beyond. After a forty-five minute presentation and a break, the participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and talk about their favorite Advent hymn. Hymns are an extension of the Book of Psalms which was the hymn book of the Second Temple. They offer us another way to consider both the theology and emotion of a season whether they are sung with a community or simply read in the quiet of our room. This evening will seek to open people to new possibilities for their experience of Advent.

Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB is a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. He did a doctorate in Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and teaches Old Testament at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He has published more than forty hymns along with two books of hymns: *Eternal Glory of the Skies* and *Baptized in Christ*.