

Advent: 21st December - The mystery of time



Romano 'dEzzelino, Opera esposta alla Mostra dei Presepi, Roberto Frison

O Antiphon: [Dayspring](#)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. Isaiah 9:2

Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel! [Sung O Antiphon \(V-VII\), Arvo Part](#)

The story continues...

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel. (Luke 2:6-7)

Silence and Imaginative exercise

What was in Mary's mind about the timing, and the place of delivery for her first baby? Of Quirinius! Of Yahweh! Sometimes the depths, the power and the love of God can render us quiet, subdued and awed.

Closing Blessing

Be a bright flame before me,
Be a guiding star above me,
Be a smooth path below me,
And be a kindly shepherd behind me,
To-day, to-night, and for ever.

Garmina Gadelica