

Chanting the Psalms – Instructions

The Psalms are the ancient hymnal of Israel, and they were meant to be sung. Prior to the pandemic, it was the practice at CHT for the choir and congregation to sing the psalms to Anglican Chant for most Sundays outside of Advent and Lent. Recently, the choir has taken on the responsibility for singing the verses while the congregation responds with an antiphon based on part of the psalm text. During the season of Epiphany, we are inviting the congregation to again sing parts of the psalm with the choir. You may be new to CHT or you may have been here a long time and never knew how exactly to align the text of the psalm with the music. There are several good resources online about the development of Anglican Chant and how it is sung (see [Anglican chant - Wikipedia](#)). Below are instructions for the notation you will see in the leaflet:

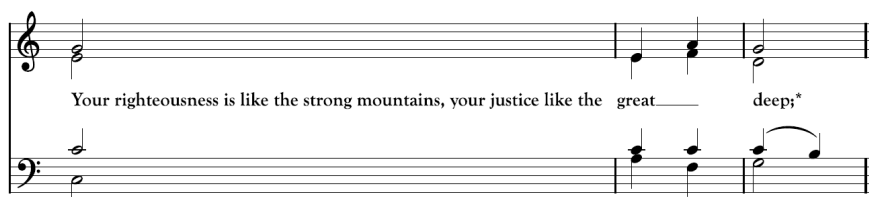
- Each verse is sung to seven bars of music
- The bar lines in the music correspond to a vertical bar in the text.
- The double bar line in the music corresponds to the asterisk in the text (marking the half verse)
- Where there is one note (a half note) to a bar, all the words for the corresponding part of the text are sung to that one note.
- Where there are two notes (two quarter notes) to a bar,
 - if the text has 2 syllables, each note gets one syllable.
 - If there are more than 2 syllables, the dot (·) indicates when the note changes.
 - If there is one syllable, the text will be italicized and sung over both notes.
- On occasion, the first measure will be skipped. This is indicated by a dash (-) before the first bar line.

We will use the same music for the chant throughout Epiphany, based on the hymn tune St. Anne (O God, our Help in Ages Past).

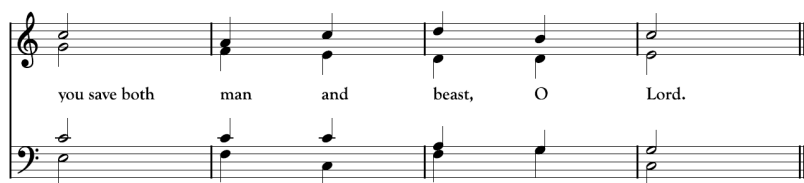


Here is a verse that you will be invited to sing on Sunday and how the text aligns with the music:

6 Your righteousness is like the strong
mountains, your justice like the |
great | deep; *



you save both | man and | beast, O | Lord.



We look forward to hearing you join us in singing the psalms over the next few weeks.