

# Waiting, Watching, Wondering

18 December

*An Advent to Epiphany Course from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney*



*Crossroads at Sunset by Malcolm Lightbody (from Unsplash)*

## *Malachi 3:1-5*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.\* <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.



## *O ADONAI*

*O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and on Mount Sinai gave him your Law: Come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us!*

### *To ponder*

Today's Advent Antiphon is O Adonai – meaning O Lord, Adonai is an ancient title for God often used in the Old Testament as the sacred name of God (known as the Tetragramaton) could not be uttered without it being considered blasphemy. Today's reading from the Prophet Malachi speaks of a messenger who will point the way, show the signs and the Antiphon speaks of the sign of the burning bush indicating the presence of God on the mountain to Moses. In the season of Advent we hear and read of signs, things pointing us in the direction of what is to come – prophets, John the Baptist, angels, Mary's Magnificat. As you have watched, waited and wondered what signs of God's Kingdom have you seen around you?

### *O Adonai by Malcolm Guite*

Unsayable, you chose to speak one tongue,  
Unseeable, you gave yourself away,  
The Adonai, the Tetragramaton  
Grew by a wayside in the light of day.  
O you who dared to be a tribal God,  
To own a language, people and a place,  
Who chose to be exploited and betrayed,  
If so you might be met with face to face,  
Come to us here, who would not find you there,  
Who chose to know the skin and not the pith,  
Who heard no more than thunder in the air,  
Who marked the mere events and not the myth.  
Touch the bare branches of our unbelief  
And blaze again like fire in every leaf.

### *To listen to*

O Adonai from 7 Magnificat Antiphons by Arvo Pärt (performed by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir) <https://youtu.be/MjUgDSo3TRI>

Adonai by Chris Renzema

<https://open.spotify.com/track/3KKS8WWBkkJLObsxJ48pRK?si=0da14e8c72164753>

