

Opening Hymn

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 87 87 87 7

Melody from *Piæ Cantiones* 1582

harmonised by editors of *New English Hymnal* 1986

UNISON

The musical score is written in unison for a single voice part. It is in the key of F# major (three sharps) and 4/4 time. The piece consists of five systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the bass staff.

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Unison

O that birth forever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

Unison

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King:
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Unison

Prudentius (384 – c.413) tr. J. M. Neale (1818 – 1866)