Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhaasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hid eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King JamesVersion), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. Cantacau y Cyssegg, 1839

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

ST. DENIO
11.11.11.11