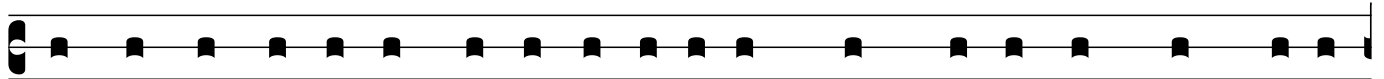


Hebrews 11:8-16

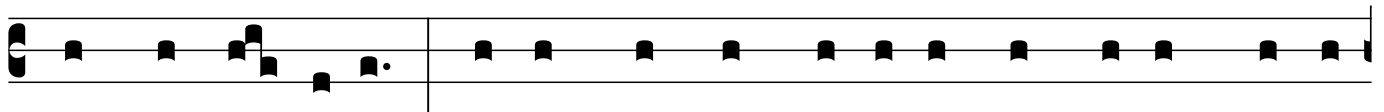
Independence Day



By faith Abra-ham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place



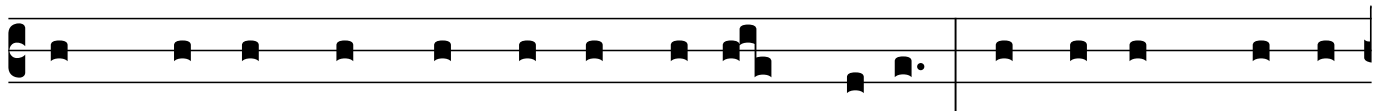
that he was to re-ceive as an inher-it-ance, and he set out, not knowing



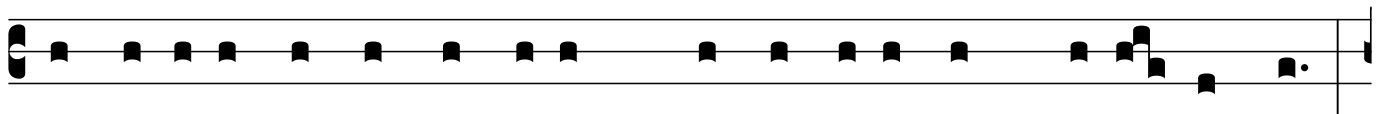
where he was go-ing. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had



been promised, as in a for-foreign land, liv-ing in tents, as did I-sa-ac and Ja-



cob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward



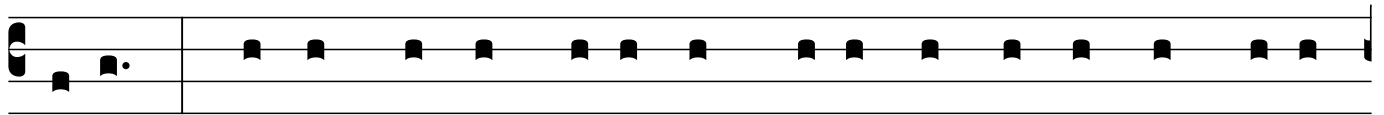
to the cit-y that has foundations, whose archi-tect and builder is God.



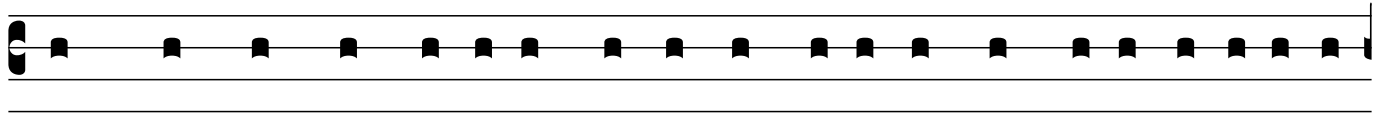
By faith, with Sa-rah's involvement, he re-ceived power of procre-ation, e-



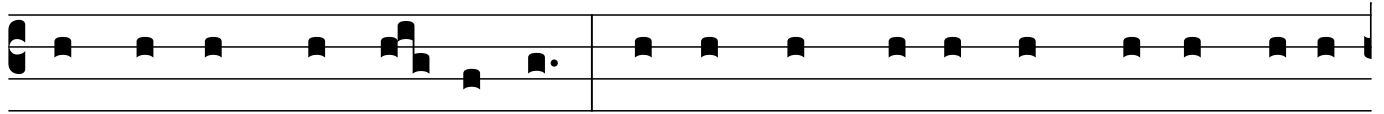
ven though he was too old, because he consid-ered him faithful who had



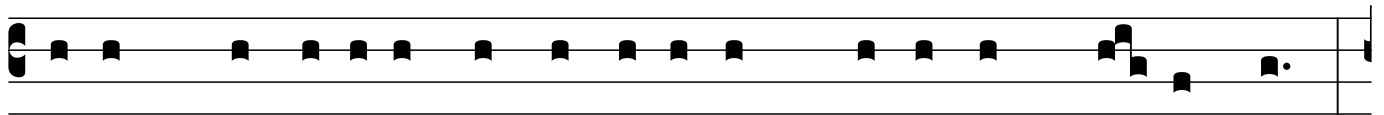
promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descend-



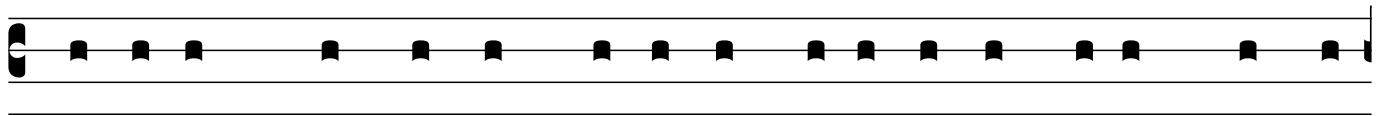
ants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable



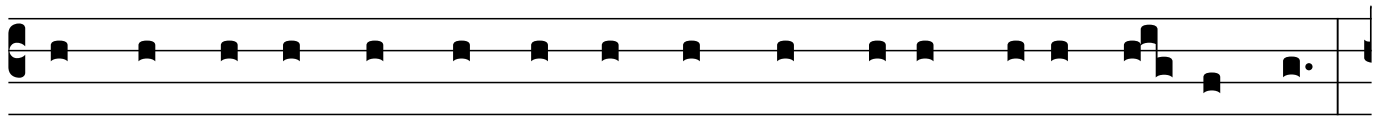
grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having



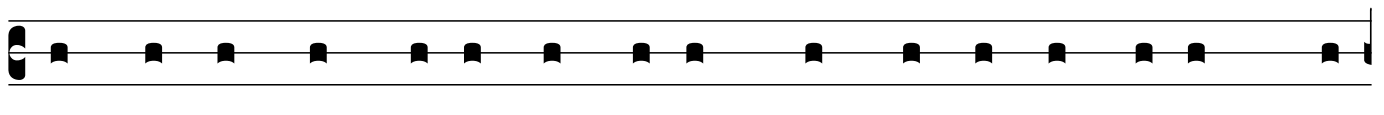
received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them.



They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people



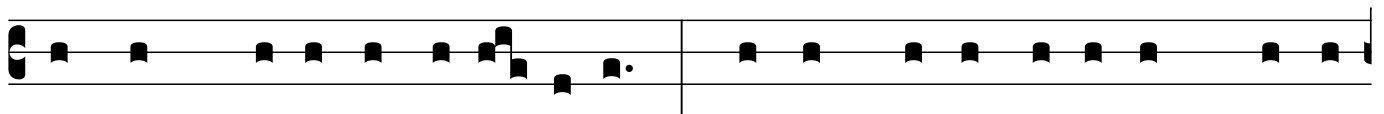
who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.



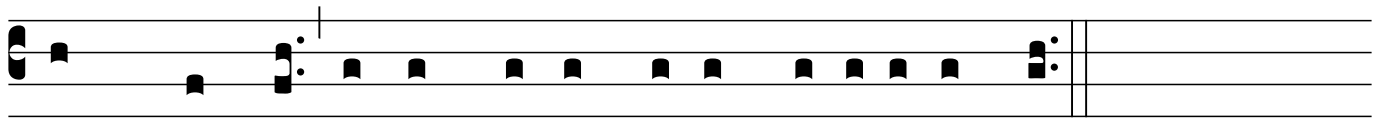
If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they



would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better



homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be



called their God; indeed, he has pre-pared a cit-y for them.