

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

by Jill Munoz
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*O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to
thee, O Israel. LSB #357*

This Advent hymn speaks to our desire for Emmanuel, *God with us*, to come and ransom us. We welcome this thought each Advent as we prepare for the first coming of our Saviour at Christmas. Now we mourn in our lonely

exile here on earth as we look to His second coming when He will appear to judge the earth and take the faithful home to be with Him in eternity. No wonder we sing “Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel” for when He comes to us, we will rejoice.

*O come Desire of nations,
bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.*

This final stanza reminds us of an important Christian teaching. May we recognize the divisions caused by unkind words, disagreements, and malice. We must acknowledge these sins, repent of them and allow our Saviour to cleanse us from all unrighteousness so He can be our King of Peace.

Along with the hymn are the Great “O” Antiphons; ancient verses counting down the days to Christmas Eve. Sung at the beginning and end of the Magnificat during the midweek service, each antiphon begins with a different name for Jesus, drawing on Scripture as foretold by the prophets.

Wisdom (Isaiah 40:14)
Adonai (Exodus 3:14)
Root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1)
Key of David (Isaiah 22:22)
Dayspring (Isaiah 9:2)
King, Jeremiah 10:7)
Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14)

Consider meditating on one of these names for our Lord each day from December 17 to 23.

Dear Lord,
Forgive us when we forget and cause divisions in our family, our church and our world. Bind us together as one and let us leave behind the sad divisions that cause grief. You are the King of Peace and we desperately need you. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.



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