

Advent 2020

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Based on the Great O Antiphons of Advent)

P: In the season of Advent we hear God's call for us to prepare for the coming of Christ. There is a sense of urgency. Since, he is coming again in judgment, we need him to first come in grace. Tonight we worship following the outline of the ancient Great O Antiphons of Advent, which are also the basis for the familiar advent hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Each long-foretold title of our Savior gives us more and more reason to eagerly await his second coming and joyfully celebrate his first.

HYMN 7

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches, With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.**

**You saints who here in patience Your cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him Your shining crowns of gold.**

O Sapientia - Wisdom

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

- Isaiah 11:2-3

ADVENT CONFSSION OF FAITH

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

THE ANTIPHON

P: **W**isdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

C:

*Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

W Adonai et Dux Domus Israel - Lord

⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist

- Isaiah 11:4-5

P: Dear friends, having seen the foretold Judge and righteous lawgiver, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, asking him to forgive us in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

THE ANTIPHON

P: **☉ Adonai** and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai, come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

C:

**Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

☉ Radix Jesse - Root of Jesse

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

- Isaiah 11:1,10

HANDBELLS

Prepare Thy Way, O Zion

*Prepare thy way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

THE ANTIPHON

P: **Ⓔ Root of Jesse**, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.

C:

**Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem.
From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save:
Bring them in vict'ry through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Ⓔ Clavis David - Key of David

²² I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

- Isaiah 22:22

P: Christ is the key to our salvation. By his life, death, and resurrection, he has opened the gates of our prison of sin and death and given us true freedom. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

THE ANTIPHON

P: **Ⓔ Key of David** and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

C:

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

☉ Oriens - Dayspring

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

- Isaiah 9:2

HANDBELLS

Comfort, Comfort, All My People

THE ANTIPHON

P: ☉ **Dayspring**, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

C:

**Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Ⓞ Rex Gentium - King of Nations

⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. ¹¹ In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.

¹² He will raise a banner for the nations
and gather the exiles of Israel;
he will assemble the scattered people of Judah
from the four quarters of the earth.

- Isaiah 2:4, 9:6, 11:10-12

THE ANTIPHON

P: Ⓞ **King of nations**, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

C:

**Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
and be yourself the King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Ⓞ Emmanuel - God With Us

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

- Isaiah 7:14

THE ANTIPHON

P: **Ⓞ Emmanuel**, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.

*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!*

BLESSING

Revelation 22:20-21

P: He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

HYMN 7

Arise, O Christian People!

*Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light was given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.*

*Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.*

*The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation -- It is the Lord's delight.*

*Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.*