

O COME, O COME,
EMMANUEL

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

2 PETER 1.19

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is an anonymously written hymn from the 12th century; it was originally used in medieval church liturgy as a series of antiphons (a verse sung responsively)—and sung during the evening services of the Advent season, leading up to Christmas Eve. These antiphons greet the anticipated Messiah with a title prophetically ascribed to him in the Old Testament: Emmanuel, Lord of Might, Wisdom, the Rod of Jesse, Key of David, Dayspring, Desire of Nations. Songs like this were important for worship and teaching; in centuries before printing and where there was prevailing illiteracy, hymns served to reveal Christ and communicate the truths of Scripture. The melody of this song is one of the earliest forms of sacred music, known as the chant or *plain song*.

“O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.”

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

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”
(which means “God with us”).*

MATTHEW 1.22-23

“O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.”

By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding He set the heavens in place.

PROVERBS 3.19

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

PROVERBS 9.10

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

ISAIAH 11.2

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

1 CORINTHIANS 1.30

. . . the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

COLOSSIANS 2.3

“O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory over the grave.”

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

ISAIAH 11.1

I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

EZEKIEL 20.37

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

JEREMIAH 23.5-6

So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 5.21

“O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.”

But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings

MALACHI 4.2

*Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

LUKE 1.78-79

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

JOHN 8.12

*And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there:
They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

REVELATION 22.3-5

“O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.”

The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.

ISAIAH 22.22

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

JOHN 10.9

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

JOHN 14.6

“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

REVELATION 3.7

“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.”

*“I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,”
says the LORD Almighty.*

HAGGAI 2.7

*“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will
come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.*

HAGGAI 2.7

*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.*

ISAIAH 9.6

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

COLOSSIANS 1.19-20

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

REVELATION 5.9

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility . . . in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

EPHESIANS 2.13-14, 16-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

COLOSSIANS 1.19-20; 3.15

In prophecy after prophecy through the centuries, name, titles, and descriptions were given in anticipation of the Coming One. The One who was coming would be the “Fullness of Deity in bodily form” (Colossians 2.9). The Apostle John wrote that “*The Word became flesh . . . and we beheld His glory*” (John 1.14). “Glory” is the “*sum of God’s infinite perfections.*” As the Fullness of Deity, Jesus would provide the only sufficient reconciliation for sinners; his fullness would be so sufficient that those who received him would be given fullness in him—his righteousness would provide justification, his name would provide authority and ensure answer to prayer, his everlasting life would give us eternal life. Jesus is the fulfillment of every prophecy, the revelation of God’s heart and will, the Mystery in whom is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The prophets searched intently to understand the One of whom their prophecies were addressing (1 Peter 1.10-11) and the Apostle Paul considered all educational and professional successes as worthless compared to knowing Christ (Philippians 3.7-8). What are you doing to better know Jesus, to understand his mission, to know what you have been given in him, to know the prophecies of his return so that you are ready for his second coming?