



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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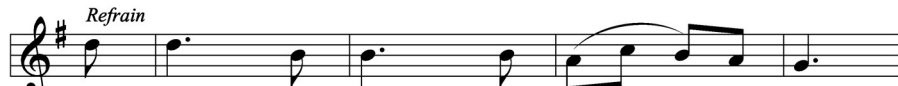
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Refrain
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

- 5 O come, Thou 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. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Refrain
- 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. Refrain

Tune and text: Public domain

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

“Are we there yet?” That is a question that has been asked thousands of times by passengers on a trip.

Some families do the countdown to Christmas by marking the days off on calendars. Others make an Advent chain and remove a link each day. Today we have arrived at the end of this year’s Advent trip. Tonight is Christmas Eve, and we begin our Christmas celebration. Like the destination of any trip, Christmas is here at last.

The word *Emmanuel/Immanuel* (“God with us”) takes us back to the Old Testament. The setting is Isaiah 7. Some kings from the north had banded together to go to war with Judah. Ahaz was the king of Judah at that time. God sent the prophet Isaiah to tell Ahaz that God would help him and Judah in any war. All he had to do was ask. But Ahaz was not interested; he was willing to depend on anything else rather than God. It was at this point that Isaiah announced a beautiful and familiar promise, one which is repeated in Matthew 1:23: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.” God was willing to strengthen the faith of Ahaz through a remarkable sign.

God is also with us and stands ready to strengthen our faith life. He doesn’t want us go it alone but wants to be beside us throughout our lives. He takes on the depths of our many miseries and gives us his peace. Our Emmanuel has come and will come again in majesty and glory. The fact that we celebrate his first coming at Christmastime gives us great comfort that he will keep us in the one true faith until he comes again.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to take our place under the Law and redeeming us from all sins. Bring joy into the hearts of your children at this blessed Christmastime. Amen.