



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 357



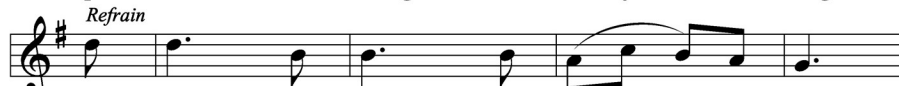
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on 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



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - 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”

The promise of a Savior was first made in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve sinned. The people of Israel waited several thousand years for this promise to be fulfilled. Waiting is not an easy thing to do. During the year of the COVID pandemic there were many instances when waiting was not valued or done.

Israel had been led into several captivities, and they were under the rule of the Romans when Jesus was born. Their real problem was their sin of worshipping other gods. We, too, can have pet sins that hold us captive from a fuller spiritual life. This Advent is a good time to take a fresh look at our lifestyle and what needs changing. This is also a good time to receive unconditional forgiveness and love from God.

As the verses of this beautiful hymn unfold, we recognize that God’s “wisdom from on high” (v. 2) comes to us in the teaching of his Word. Verse 3 speaks of the might and power of God which, too, comes to us through his Word. Verse 4 traces Jesus’ roots to Jesse and prays that Jesus would break the power of Satan and give us “victory over the grave.” Verse 5 promises us that Jesus’ coming will open the way to “our heavenly home” and “close the path to misery.”

Verses 6 and 7 are a joyful response to the coming of Emmanuel (“God with us”). The refrain emphasizes the message of joy which cannot be dampened by some of the things that happen in our lives.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for giving us this reminder that you have indeed come to us to save us from all of our sins. Help us use this season to focus anew on the relationship you want for us. Amen.