

Christmas Playlist

O Come O Come Emanuel

Series Intro: *Leading up to Christmas, we are building a Christmas playlist together...Heaven's songs are full of God's promises and power. There might be some songs on our playlists that the Holy Spirit wants to replace. Maybe He wants to add some that are missing. So many of these songs are full of truths from God's Word. Let's build!*

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.

Song History:

The Latin text of the song first appeared in Germany in 1710 and there's a reference to the music from the 15th century. It's been sung by the church for centuries during Advent as they recognized the arrival of Jesus. It resonates with the longing of Israel in Isaiah's day as well as today.

Isaiah 7:14 (Amplified)

Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Listen carefully, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will call his name Immanuel (God with us).

- Put yourself in the shoes of a first-century Jew who is longing to be free from exile, free from oppression, and free from suffering.
- When Jesus came, He was to be the ransom paid to set Israel free not just from human captivity but from their sin and brokenness. Immanuel was the ultimate deliverer they had so longed to see.
- Not the exuberant “Joy to the world, the Lord has come,” or the vigorous and bounding, “Go Tell It on the Mountain” but a song of Longing. Aching. Yearning. Hoping.
- The context of Isaiah and Jeremiah is God interrupting flawed human plans with Heaven's Plan.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Why? Because God is with us! (from the verses in the song):

- *Emmanuel* (Isaiah 8:8) He will pay the ransom that only a God-man can pay.
- *Rod of Jesse* (Isaiah 11:1), Springing from a dead stump, He will free his people, by death and resurrection, from Satan's tyranny, and make them free forever.
- *Day-spring* (Luke 1:78), The dawn of God's kingdom- He will be the light of the world, and banish the hopelessness of darkness.
- *Key of David* (Isaiah 22:22) He rescues us from hell, locks the door behind us, unlocks the door of heaven, and brings us home.
- *Desire of nations* (Haggai 2:7), He will draw the ransomed from every people and make them a kingdom of peace.

Adding The Song of Hope to our Christmas Playlist.

Modern Definition: *“to wish for, to expect, but without certainty of the fulfillment; to desire very much, but with no real assurance of getting your desire.”*

Greek/Hebrew: *an indication of certainty, a strong and confident expectation*

Romans 5:5 NASB

...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- When Jesus is our Hope, we can learn to rejoice in suffering, in the meantime, and eternity. In what was, what is, and what will come.

Keep Your Appointment with Hope.

- Dis-appointment means we had an appointment (with hope), but we ‘dissed’ it. Blew it off or missed it. Hope is always available to us, setting up appointments, never leaving or forsaking, walking with us through the valleys, always present.
- If we’re feeling disappointment, we simply need to keep our appointment with Hope Himself.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 (Message)

I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you a [hope and a future].¹² “When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen.”¹³⁻¹⁴ “When you come looking for me, you’ll find me. “Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.”

- Our human thinking and plans will always end in disappointment, but Christmas reminds us that God has always planned to introduce us to Hope (Jesus).
- Notice our responsibility to the promise of Hope. *When you come looking for me, you’ll find me. “Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else.*

Hope Holds

- o HIS PROMISE

Hebrews 6:16-18a TPT

It is very common for people to swear an oath by something greater than themselves, for the oath will confirm their statements and end all dispute.¹⁷ So in the same way, God wanted to end all doubt and confirm it even more forcefully to those who would inherit his promises. His purpose was unchangeable, so God added his vow to the promise. And now we have run into his heart to hide ourselves in his faithfulness. This is where we find his strength and comfort...

- Hope is ours. God promises and adds a vow to it. (Because we would face things and need assurance)
- I can hope in the present and in the future because of what Jesus has done in the past.
- MY RESPONSE

Hebrews 6:18b-19a TPT

...for he empowers us to seize what has already been established ahead of time—an unshakeable hope!¹⁹ We have this certain hope like a strong, unbreakable anchor holding our souls to God himself.

Jesus empowers us to hope.

- Hope holds but I must choose to take hold of it. Notice Jesus empowers us to seize...
- We can't wait until we feel hopeful.
- "I lost hope." No. Hope doesn't hide. You just stopped fueling your hope with the Word. *Psalm 119:114b "I will hope in Your Word"* We sometimes challenge the Word with our experience rather than challenging the experience with the Word
- A lack of hope is a greater enemy than what the devil can do.
- My hopelessness about a problem is a bigger problem than my problem.

Ex. Father-in-law "Throw the anchor out." When hope is on your playlist, it keeps you stable and steady, and ready. "Anchor mode" on his trolling motor.

1 Peter 1:13 (TPT)

So then, prepare your hearts and minds for action! Stay alert and fix your hope firmly...

- A biblical hope is not an escape from reality or from problems, it enables us to engage life with power. It's not passive or idle; it's engaged and in gear.
- Hope isn't just a wish, it's a way of living, a decision to engage my faith.
- Have you put your hand to what you are hoping for?

Hope Leads

Hebrews 6:19b-20 TPT

Our anchor of hope is fastened to the mercy seat^[a] which sits in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold,^[b] ²⁰ and where Jesus, our forerunner,^[c] has gone in before us. He is now and forever our royal Priest like Melchizedek.^[d]

- HIS PROMISE
 - The mercy seat was the innermost chamber of the Holy of Holies. This is where God's presence dwelt. Jesus, our Hope, leads us into the very center of God's presence.

- He's our forerunner, our forever Priest. Priests in the OT would take people's sacrifices to God. Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice and takes people, you, and me, into God's presence.
- *Beyond the sacred threshold...* Before Jesus, there was a curtain that separated people from God's inner sanctuary.
- Sometimes we tie ourselves to things that are not going where we are going.

Hope isn't distant, hope is near.

- MY RESPONSE
 - Jesus leads us "beyond the faces of the door." (Aramaic)
 - We can choose to stop at the door of fear, doubt, circumstances, feelings, or we can run right in and anchor in Hope!
 - There's no 6 feet rule with God. We can now run right in...face to face.

Hope Flows

Colossians 1:27 (TPT)

²⁷ Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!

- HIS PROMISE
 - We know Jesus is the hope of the world but notice it is Christ in us that is the hope to the world. Hope is a person—Christ, and my hope is in Him, not in what He provides, but in Him.
 - If the enemy can steal your hope, it short-circuits the flow of the Gospel through your life.

I am not helpless when I am hopeful.

- MY RESPONSE
 - Thoughts and Words are fuel gages for our hope. Hopeful words come from hopeful hearts.
 - I'm not just a recipient of hope; I am a carrier of hope.
 - Hope is our assignment as much as our appointment. Who around you need hope?

Romans 15:13 (NLT)

¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.