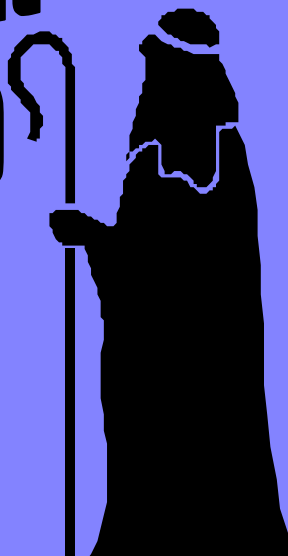




Emmanuel: God-With-Us

**Advent
2010**





O Come Emmanuel

OPENING HYMN: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (sing or recite)

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.

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

OPENING PRAYER:

Let us pray:

Emmanuel, Holy Child of Bethlehem, O Song of Love, be with us as we enter this sacred season of Advent. At this time darkness grows outside and winter deepens from day to day and we await light.

Advent too is God-waiting time. Help us to wait out this season with gratitude and awe, as you God of Hope, are the cause of our peace, the reason for our hope, and the radiance in our life.

O Emmanuel, ever-present One, and our Advent deepest longing, we pray that our lives be true words-made-flesh in our homes and in our schools. AMEN

O Come Emmanuel

Reading:

In this sacred season of Advent we remember the gift of Divine Love who lights our daily way. His loving Presence became for us a source of hope, compassion and courage. This Love Incarnate came as a Light radiating compassion, a Torch bearing truth, and a Beacon offering guidance. (1)

This Divine Love, this Torch bearing truth, is God-with-us. He reveals God in our midst. He is the God here-with-us in the ordinary, the everyday, the chaos, and in the shabbiness of a stable. He is the love between a man and a woman, the birth of a child and He is hidden in people despised because of their lowly social status. (2)

Emmanuel is indeed not only Divine Love, a Torch bearing truth, but He is a Beacon of Guidance who stands at the gate of our hearts, directing us during these Advent days. He encourages us to raise high the chalice of our life so others may find their way in the dark. He is the Spirit who lights a candle in our hearts so that our lives may move gently into all those places where light is needed. Let us pray that we see Emmanuel some place, somewhere, each day during Advent. (3)

O Come Emmanuel

Pause for Reflection:

Group Sharing Questions:

1. Has there been times when Emmanuel revealed God to you in your life at home or in school? When have you felt this, or been aware of this special gift?
2. Is there someone who has been a candle, a shining light for you when your day was stressful or filled with struggles?
What did that person do for you?
3. How have you been a source of hope, compassion and love for your students, family or friends.

Prayers of Petition:

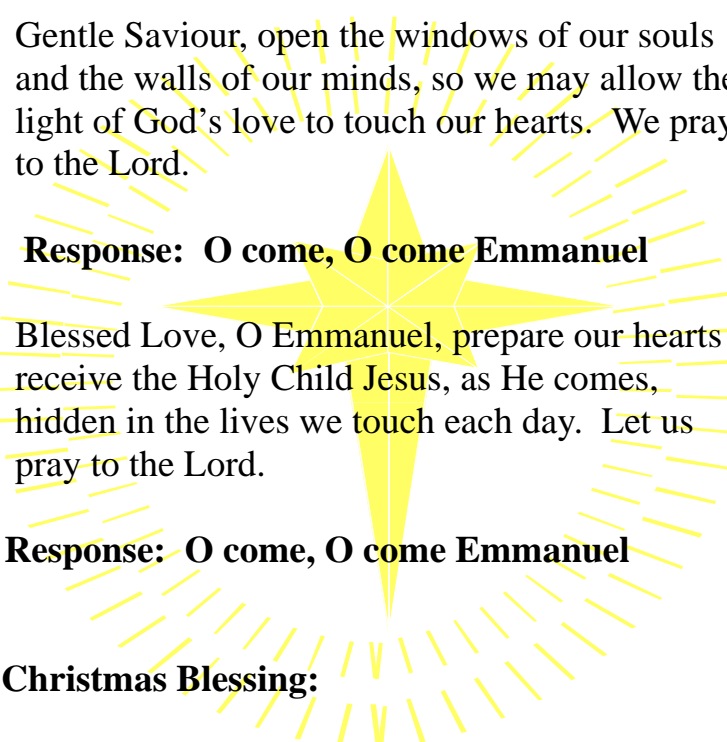
1. Anointed as we are by Divine Love, by Emmanuel all holy, let us pray that our eyes will be opened to the beauty in family members, teachers, students and friends. We pray to the Lord.

Response: O come, O come Emmanuel

2. Holy One, inspire us to take time for those in our homes and schools who may be discouraged and need our loving support. We pray to the Lord.

Response: O come, O come Emmanuel

O Come Emmanuel

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3. Gentle Saviour, open the windows of our souls and the walls of our minds, so we may allow the light of God's love to touch our hearts. We pray to the Lord.

Response: O come, O come Emmanuel

4. Blessed Love, O Emmanuel, prepare our hearts to receive the Holy Child Jesus, as He comes, hidden in the lives we touch each day. Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: O come, O come Emmanuel

A Christmas Blessing:

Leader:

- † May the honour you give to the Babe of Bethlehem extend to every guest.
- † May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ.
- † May wonder and awe be awakened within you this season of love and mercy.
- † May you keep your eye on the Star within you, and may this Presence guide and direct you each day. Amen

O Come Emmanuel

Closing Prayer:

Emmanuel, Lord of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our Christmas
preparations.

We who have much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your
voice.

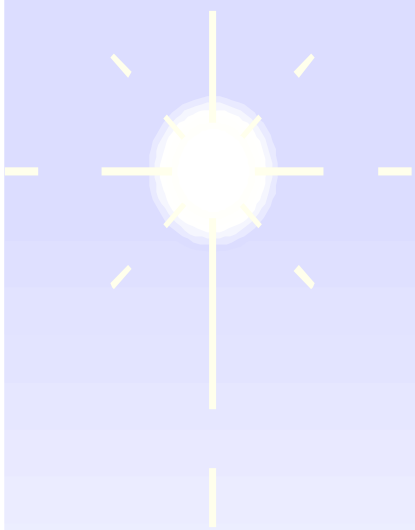
We who are blessed in many things look forward to your
coming among us.

We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your
Presence.

Emmanuel, we are your holy people walking in
darkness,
yet seeking your light.



O Come Emmanuel



Credits

- (1) **Rupp:** *Out of the Ordinary*, p. 27
- (2) **Morwood:** *Emmanuel-Is-With-Us*, p. 65
- (3) **Wiederkehr:** *Ideas from Seven Sacred Pauses*

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