

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin (9th century); trans. John Mason Neale · 1851 · Tune: Veni Emmanuel (Thomas Helmore (adapted from 15th-c. plainsong))
Meter: 8.8.8.8 with refrain

Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

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

Verse 2

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.

Verse 3

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.

Verse 4

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.

History

Based on the medieval 'O Antiphons' sung in the final week of Advent (8th-9th century). John Mason Neale translated the Latin text into English in 1851, and Thomas Helmore paired it with a 15th-century French plainsong melody the same year.

Scripture References (KJV)

Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:23

They shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Revelation 3:7

He that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth.

