



Advent Resource

The Advent Antiphons

The Advent Antiphons, seven short prayers that focus on different names for Christ, date back to the fourth century. They were adapted from Scripture and other Christian writings. In some churches one Antiphon is said each day beginning December 17. The Antiphons are the theme of each of the seven verses of the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.”

Antiphon 1

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord, our God.

Antiphon 2

O Wisdom, who came forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end, and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

Antiphon 3

O Adonai and Leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flames of the bush and gave him the law at Sinai: Come, and with your outstretched arm redeem us.

Antiphon 4

O Root of Jesse, who stands for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and to whom the Gentiles shall make their supplication: Come, and deliver us and tarry not.

Antiphon 5

O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, who opens and no one shuts, who shuts and no one opens: Come, and bring forth from prison the captive who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Antiphon 6

O Dayspring, Brightness of the light eternal and Sun of justice: Come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Antiphon 7

O King of the Gentiles and their Desired One, Cornerstone that makes both one: Come, and deliver us whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

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 Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

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

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

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

O come, Thou Root of Jesse's tree,
An ensign of Thy people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on Thy mercy call.

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.

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.

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

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.

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