

TIDINGS of COMFORT and JOY

Message topic: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Message date: November 29, 2020

Primary biblical texts: Matthew 1, Isaiah 9, 22

Purpose of Community Groups

To engage with the ideas and scripture presented in the messages, to build connections with each other, and apply what we have learned to our lives.

Purpose of the Advent Message Series

Our new Advent message series is called *Tidings of Comfort and Joy*. During the next four weeks of Advent we will look at different Christmas songs and see what they can teach us about who God is. Try to listen or sing the songs together with your group and talk about what comes to mind when you hear each song. (The lyrics are below.)

Message Content

This week, we look at the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The song speaks of the promises of God’s Savior foretold in Isaiah. The coming Savior is described with five distinctive names: Emmanuel, the Rod of Jesse, the Dayspring, the Key of David, and Adonai. Each name communicates something unique about Jesus. He is “God with us,” the one who has won our freedom, our relief, our salvation who opens the door to our true home, and the one who rules in love. In the original Latin version “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” monks would sing the hymn successively through the Advent season. Each day would result in a new expression of the Savior’s name. As they sang, they were immersed in the life giving work that Jesus came at Christmas to begin.

Discussion Questions (pick one or two)

1. Mixer: What is your favorite Christmas song? Why?
2. What stood out to you during this message? Was there anything that surprised you?
3. Read the song lyrics below. What stands out to you? Where is the encouragement for you in this song?
4. One of the refrains in the song is “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.” Where is your heart weary? Where in your life do you need relief and freedom from God?
5. What are you hopeful for in this season? What are you most looking forward to at Christmas?

Close in Prayer

Ask God to meet each person in their needs.



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 Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

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

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.