

Veni 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 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.

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.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Latin c. 13th century (tr J M Neale 1851)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us for ever;
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

C Wesley 1744

Let us pray:

We thank you loving Father, that we are people of hope because you have come among us in the person of your Son Jesus. Thank you that one day Jesus will return and put all things right. Thank you that we will dwell with him forever. Fill our hearts with joyful expectation this Advent, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for the first Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility; that on the last day, when he comes again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bible reading: Luke 1:26-38

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Who is Jesus?

God in skin

Bishop Mark Calder

Hymn of the Saviour

From the chaos of darkness, Your word shaped the earth
In Your image a people made
But we traded perfection, the truth for a lie
And Your glory was veiled in shame

But a promise made, a blessing You gave
To a people of Your name
For this broken world, a Saviour foretold
To bear all our grief and pain

When the heavenly Saviour descended His throne
All my sin on His shoulders laid
And to win our redemption, He suffered and died
For the sake of my guilt and shame

Oh the price He paid in taking my place
So that death was overcome
When the King of love burst forth from the grave
Proclaiming the vict'r'y won

At the end of the ages, the world passed away
I will gaze on my Saviour's face
When my heart is perfected and free from my sin
I will rest in Your glorious grace

For the song we raise, the works of our hands
Are in service of the King
When a thousand tongues cry, 'Glory to God'
Forever His praise we'll sing

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Time of Prayer

Let us pray for the world and for the church

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Confession and assurance

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Heb 9:24-28

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

All glory and honour, thanks and praise, be yours now and always, Lord, holy Father, mighty Creator, everliving God. We give thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. We thank you that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence stand before him who redeems us from sin and death and makes us heirs of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and the whole company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And now, Father, we pray that we who receive these your gifts of bread and wine according to our Saviour's word may be partakers of his body and blood.

For on the night he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you his Almighty Father, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We offer our prayer and praise, Father, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Following communion

Mark gives thanks to God for his grace and hope

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

When we see your face

Though the dark is overwhelming
And the brightest lights grow dim
Though the Word of God
Is trampled on by foolish men
Though the wicked never stumble
And abound in every place
We will all be humbled when we see Your face

And the demons we've been fighting
Those without and those within
Will be underneath our feet
To never rise again
All our sins will be behind us
Through the blood of Christ erased
And we'll taste Your kindness when we see Your face

We will see, we will know
Like we've never known before
We'll be found, we'll be home
We'll be Yours forevermore

All the waiting will be over
Every sorrow will be healed
All the dreams it seemed
Could never be will all be real
And You'll gather us together
In Your arms of endless grace
As Your Bride forever when we see Your face

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Closing prayer

.... and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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