

# O COME O COME EMMANUEL

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**Week 3: Dayspring**

ADVENT 2022



*Advent Reader 2022*

*O Come, O Come,  
Emmanuel*

*Advent Reader: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*Week 3: Dayspring*

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## Reflection 1

# O COME... O COME...

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We will begin this week's reflection with the song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." As you listen and sing the words "O Come," reflect and identify one area where you long to see God's presence and work take place.

### O Come O Come Emmanuel - Maverick City Music

By John Mason Neale and Henry Sloane Coffin  
(C) 2020 Maverick City Music

#### Verse 1

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

#### Verse 2:

O Come, Thou Dayspring, 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, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path of misery

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Has come to thee, O Israel

#### Bridge:

Emmanuel, You're here with us  
Emmanuel, You're here with us  
Emmanuel, oh the promise has been fulfilled  
You're here with us, O Emmanuel  
You're here with us  
You're not coming, you've already come  
And we wait the day when You'll return  
In all Your glory, in all Your splendor  
Emmanuel, You are here with us  
O Emmanuel, You're here with us  
You're here with us

So rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Has come to thee, O Israel



“...because of the tender mercy of God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in shadow of death,  
to guide their feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 1:78-79 (ESV)

“O come, thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death’s dark shadow put to flight.

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
John Mason Neale

*Reflection 2***DAYSRING**

One thing that surprised me when I first moved to Vancouver was the length of winter nights. As someone who grew up in Hong Kong for most of my childhood, I was used to having even days and nights all year round. But here in Vancouver, things are completely different. During winter, the sun sets not long after lunch. The sky slowly turns dark, and while you are still busy going through your work, the next thing you notice is that the night has arrived. Things outside are covered by complete darkness.

The use of the imagery of light and darkness can easily be found throughout the Bible. Light is often attributed to God, while darkness is used to depict a life without God (which includes evil, death, and judgment). According to the Biblical authors, while God is the true light, sovereign, and above all forms of evils, the world we live in continues to show signs and manifestations of darkness. Yes, this world is our father's world, yet the wrongs and battles are still not done.

How, then shall we live? As the song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" goes, we arrive at the third Messianic title, Dayspring. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word "Dayspring" is an archaic word that is equivalent to "dawn" or "the beginning of the day." Dayspring, in other words, signifies a new era. It represents both the end of the old and the start of the new. It is a sign that something new is unfolding. By calling the Messiah the "Dayspring from on high" (see Luke 1:67-79), we are anticipating the coming of a new age where the true light of God would shine across all corners of the earth and disperse all forms of darkness.

Brain Hooper, in his article "The 'O' Antiphons," helps us further reflect on the meaning and implications of the image Dayspring as he writes the following:

"As Advent draws to its conclusion and we long for the candlelit splendour of Christmas, we recall the promise of the prophet Malachi, 'For those who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.' It is no coincidence that the church has chosen to celebrate the birth of her Lord at the time of year when darkness is longest and light is shortest. In so doing, we make known our belief that even in a world darkened by personal sin and institutional oppression, there is reason to hope. When the wings of the most high overshadow us, it is not darkness that is brought, but light."

The Messianic title of "Dayspring" thus reminds us of two things. First, it calls us not to settle with how things are right now and to long for the final day when the True Light will manifest and shine fully on this world. But, second, in the meantime, the title of Dayspring points us back in history and remember that the light has already come. This light, though dim and flickering, is still shining and present at this time. In whatever darkness that we are experiencing, hold tight to this: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Lead Kindly Light - Audrey Assad

By John Mason Neale and Henry Sloane Coffin  
(C) 2013 Fortunate Fall Records

Lead kindly Light amidst the grey and gloom  
The night is long and I am far from home  
Here in the dark I do not ask to see  
The path ahead one step enough for me  
Lead on lead on kindly Light

I was not ever willing to be led  
I could have stayed but I ran instead  
In spite of fear I followed my pride  
My eyes could see but my heart was blind  
Lead on lead on kindly Light

And in the night when I was afraid  
Your feet beside my own on the way  
Each stumbling step where other men have trod  
Shortens the road leading home to my God  
Lead on lead on  
My God my God  
Lead on lead on kindly light



## Daily Reading

In continuation with the theme of light shining in the darkness, our reading for this week will focus on two stories: Ruth and Mary. As you read and reflect on their stories, try to pinpoint the signs of light in their 'darkness.'

Sunday Dec 11, 2022  
Ruth 1 The Widows

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Monday Dec 12, 2022  
Ruth 2 Gleaning at the Field

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Tuesday Dec 13, 2022  
Ruth 3 The 'Redeemer'

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Wednesday Dec 14, 2022  
Ruth 4 The Marriage

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Thursday Dec 15, 2022  
Luke 1:26-38 The Surprise Visit

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Friday Dec 16, 2022  
Luke 1:39-56 The Magnificat

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Saturday Dec 17, 2022  
Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of the Messiah

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