



The Parish of
Thorpe St Andrew



**A Service of Readings and
Music for Advent Sunday**

29 November 2020

from Thorpe St Andrew Parish Church



Watching and waiting for the coming of the Messiah



The Great 'O' Antiphons

The great 'O' Antiphons, are sung chants used with the Magnificat antiphons used in the evening on the last seven days of Advent in Western Christian traditions. They are also used as the Alleluia verses in the Eucharist and have, as today, been used quite flexibly in introducing some of the themes of Advent, as the time of Christmas gets nearer. The hymn, 'O come, o come, Emmanuel' which we begin puts these in hymn form. The importance of the "O Antiphons" is twofold. First, each one is a title for the Messiah. Secondly, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. Various passages of Scripture have been set with each antiphon, sung at this service.

The original Latin (O Sapientia, O Adonai, O Radix Jesse, O Clavis David, O Oriens, O Rex Gentium, O Emmanuel) form an interesting acrostic if taken backwards:

ERO CRAS

This translates as "Tomorrow, I will be [there]", mirroring the theme of the antiphons. Some believe that this was deliberate and that therefore, Christ, whose coming we prepare for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, tomorrow, I will come. The O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but ultimately bring it to a joyful conclusion. It is hoped as we begin this season of Advent that as we reach it's conclusion Christ will be to us Emmanuel – God with us.

The Revd James Stewart, Rector - November 2020

Organ Prelude Sleepers awake! (Wachet auf!), JS Bach

Hymn

**O come, O come. Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.**

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

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating man from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.**

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

**O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe.
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.**

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

**O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.**

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

**O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.**

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

**O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.**

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

**O come, Desire of nations! show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.**

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

Welcome and Introductory Prayer

Reading Ecclesiasticus 24:3-9

Antiphon O wisdom (*O Sapientia*)

Reading Exodus 3:1-6

Antiphon O Lord of Lords (*O Adonai*)

Hymn

**Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling
The watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying.
Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!
Alleluya!
The wedding song
Swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.**

**Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesu, God's own Son!
Hosanna!
Let us prepare
To follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.**

**Every soul in thee rejoices;
From men and from angelic voices
Be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
Thy presence never more shall leave us,
We stand with Angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
The bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluya!
Grant us to raise,
To length of days,
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.**

Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Antiphon O root of Jesse (*O Radix Jesse*)

Reading Isaiah 22:21-23

Antiphon O key of David (*O Clavis David*)

Organ Meditation Saviour of the Nations, Come - J G Walther

Reading Numbers 24:15-17

Antiphon O morning star (*O Oriens*)

Reading Jeremiah 30:7-11a

Antiphon O king of the nations (*O Rex Gentium*)

Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light...

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light...

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light...

Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!

Reading Matthew 1:18-23

Antiphon O Emmanuel (*O Emmanuel*)

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Blessing

Organ Voluntary: Prelude and Fugue in A major - J G Walther



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact our Rector,
The Revd James Stewart (Fr James)

Tel: 01603 439160 or email him at rector@thorpeparishchurch.org