

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

In a season when most songs are joyful and triumphant, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* always stood out to me for its solemn tune. The mourning of the captive Israel is heard in the sorrowful melody. This is followed with the glorious refrain of 'Rejoice! Rejoice" where it all turns to a triumphant shout in the recognition that Christ came to be with us and to save us all at any time and in any place.

The use of the different names of God stands out to me as well. The titular Emmanuel, God with us, reminds us that God came down to walk among us, live with us, and save us. Throughout the seven stanzas we see many more names for God - Wisdom, Lord of might, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Dayspring, Desire of Nations - which remind us of God's strength and wisdom, and, even still, the humble way he came to Earth to be with us.

By Krista Firkus