

Theme: This series looks at seven titles of the Coming Messiah found in the book of Isaiah. These titles were all part of a special series of songs Christians in earlier times sang the week before Christmas, culminating on Christmas Eve with the singing of "O Come O Come Emmanuel".

## I. The Word of Wisdom (O Wisdom)

- A. Theme: Jesus is anointed with the Spirit of wisdom to govern and order everything rightly, and as God's Word of Wisdom He justifies and sanctifies us so that we may walk in the wisdom of holiness.
- B. Text: Isaiah 11:1-5
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Ephesians 1:17-19
- E. Teaching keywords: wisdom, Advent and Christmas, Christology, Holy Spirit, prophecy (Old Testament), righteousness
- F. Song: (O Sapientia)  
O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti,  
attingens a fine usque ad finem,  
fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia:  
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.  
O Wisdom,  
which came from the mouth of the Most High,  
reaching to the ends of the earth,  
ordering all things mightily and gently:  
Come to teach us the way of prudence.

Poem: [O Sapientia by Malcolm Guite](#)

I cannot think unless I have been thought,  
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken.  
I cannot teach except as I am taught,  
Or break the bread except as I am broken.  
O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,  
O Light within the light by which I see,  
O Word beneath the words with which I speak,  
O founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me,  
O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,  
O Memory of time, reminding me,  
My Ground of Being, always grounding me,  
My Maker's Bounding Line, defining me,  
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,  
Come to me now, disguised as everything.

## II. The LORD Who Saves (O Adonai)

- A. Theme: Jesus is the LORD Who saves, delivering His people from sin, restoring them to God's favor and blessing and drawing them close to Himself.
- B. Text: Isaiah 11:1-5; Isaiah 33:22
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26
- E. Teaching keywords: Name of God, Advent and Christmas, Christology, Deity of Christ, prophecy (Old Testament), salvation and deliverance
- F. Song: O Adonai (O Lord)

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel,  
qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti,  
et ei in Sina legem dedisti:  
veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel,  
who appeared in the bush to Moses  
in a flame of fire and gavest him the Law of Sinai:  
Come, and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

Poem: [O Adonai by Malcolm Guite](#)

Unsayable, you chose to speak one tongue,  
Unseeable, you gave yourself away,  
The Adonai, the Tetragrammaton  
Grew by a wayside in the light of day.  
O you who dared to be a tribal God,  
To own a language, people and a place,  
Who chose to be exploited and betrayed,  
If so you might be met with face to face,  
Come to us here, who would not find you there,  
Who chose to know the skin and not the pith,  
Who heard no more than thunder in the air,  
Who marked the mere events and not the myth.  
Touch the bare branches of our unbelief  
And blaze again like fire in every leaf.

### III. The Root of Life (O Root of Jesse)

- A. Theme: Jesus is the Root of Jesse, Who sustains and nourishes God's people through every season of life, restoring them to God's favor and producing fruit in them and throughout the earth.
- B. Text: Isaiah 11:1, 10-12
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:13
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Christology, prophecy (Old Testament), hope, Church
- F. Song: (O Radix)

O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum,  
super quem continebunt reges os suum,  
quem Gentes deprecabuntur:  
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;  
before you kings will shut their mouths,  
to you the nations will make their prayer:  
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

Poem: [O Radix by Malcolm Guite](#)

All of us sprung from one deep-hidden seed,  
Rose from a root invisible to all.  
We knew the virtues once of every weed,  
But, severed from the roots of ritual,  
We surf the surface of a wide-screen world  
And find no virtue in the virtual.  
We shrivel on the edges of a wood  
Whose heart we once inhabited in love,  
Now we have need of you, forgotten Root  
The stock and stem of every living thing  
Whom once we worshiped in the sacred grove,  
For now is winter, now is withering  
Unless we let you root us deep within,  
Under the ground of being, graft us in.

#### IV. The Key of Freedom (O Key of David)

- A. Theme: Jesus is the Key of David, Who unlocks shackles and frees the captives from the dungeons of sin, brings us into the light and opens the gates of heave for us to have eternal fellowship with the Triune God.
- B. Text: Isaiah 22:22
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Christology, prophecy (Old Testament), freedom
- F. Song: (O Clavis)

O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel;  
qui aperis, et nemo claudit;  
claudis, et nemo aperit:  
veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris,  
sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel,  
who openest and no man shutteth, and shuttest,  
and no man openeth:  
Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison house,  
and him that sitteth in darkness & the shadow of death.

Poem: [O Clavis by Malcolm Guite](#)

Even in the darkness where I sit  
And huddle in the midst of misery  
I can remember freedom, but forget  
That every lock must answer to a key,  
That each dark clasp, sharp and intricate,  
Must find a counter-clasp to meet its guard,  
Particular, exact and intimate,  
The clutch and catch that meshes with its ward.  
I cry out for the key I threw away  
That turned and over turned with certain touch  
And with the lovely lifting of a latch  
Opened my darkness to the light of day.  
O come again, come quickly, set me free  
Cut to the quick to fit, the master key.

## V. The Dawning Light (O Dayspring)

- A. Theme: Jesus is the Dawning Light, breaking through the darkness in our life to give life, freedom, and joy.
- B. Text: Isaiah 9:1-2
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Luke 1:75-79 paraphrase
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Christology, prophecy (Old Testament), God's Glory; eschatology
- F. Song: (O Oriens)

O Oriens,

splendor lucis aeternae, et sol justitiae:

veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Dayspring,

Brightness of Light everlasting and Sun of Justice:

Come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness

and the shadow of death.

Poem: [O Oriens by Malcolm Guite](#)

First light and then first lines along the east  
To touch and brush a sheen of light on water  
As though behind the sky itself they traced

The shift and shimmer of another river  
Flowing unbidden from its hidden source;  
The Day-Spring, the eternal Prima Vera.

Blake saw it too. Dante and Beatrice  
Are bathing in it now, away upstream...  
So every trace of light begins a grace

In me, a beckoning. The smallest gleam  
Is somehow a beginning and a calling;  
"Sleeper awake, the darkness was a dream

For you will see the Dayspring at your waking,  
Beyond your long last line the dawn is breaking".

## VI. The King of the Nations (O King of the Nations)

- A. Theme: Jesus was rejected by humanity, but He is the Chief Cornerstone of God's Temple and the King of all the nations.
- B. Text: Isaiah 49:5-7
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: Psalm 67:1-2
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Christology, prophecy (Old Testament), evangelism and missions
- F. Song: (O Rex Gentium)

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum,  
lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum:  
veni, et salva hominem,  
quem de limo formasti.

O King of the nations, and their Desire,  
the cornerstone who makest both one:  
Come, and save mankind,  
whom thou formedst of clay.

Poem: [O Rex Gentium by Malcolm Guite](#)

O King of our desire whom we despise,  
King of the nations never on the throne,  
Unfound foundation, cast-off cornerstone,  
Rejected joiner, making many one,  
You have no form or beauty for our eyes,  
A King who comes to give away his crown,  
A King within our rags of flesh and bone.  
We pierce the flesh that pierces our disguise,  
For we ourselves are found in you alone.  
Come to us now and find in us your throne,  
O King within the child within the clay,  
O hidden King who shapes us in the play  
Of all creation. Shape us for the day  
Your coming Kingdom comes into its own.

## VII. God With Us (O Emmanuel)

- A. Theme: Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, rescuing and restoring us to God.
- B. Text: Isaiah 7:14
- C. Response: Silent Night/Candle Lighting
- D. Benediction: Special O Antiphon blessing
- E. Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Christology, prophecy (Old Testament), Deity of Christ; Incarnation
- F. Song: (O Emmanuel)

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster,  
exspectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum:  
veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,  
the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation:  
Come, and save us, O Lord our God.

Poem: [O Emmanuel by Malcolm Guite](#)

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us  
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,  
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.  
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name  
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,  
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,  
Be folded with us into time and place,  
Unfold for us the mystery of grace  
And make a womb of all this wounded world.  
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,  
O tiny hope within our hopelessness  
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,  
To touch a dying world with new-made hands  
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

## **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (Translated from Latin by John Mason Neale)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go. (Refrain)

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. (Refrain)

O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road  
and bar the way to death's abode. (Refrain)

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
and turn our darkness into light. (Refrain)

O come, O King of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace. (Refrain)