

First Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.”

Gloria!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.”

Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name”:
most highly favoured lady.

Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
“Most highly favoured lady.”

Gloria!

Basque Carol

Tune Gabriel's Message

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.

[Refrain]

O come, O come Adonai
who in thy glorious majesty
from Sinai's mountain, clothed in awe,
gavest thy folk the elder law.

[Refrain]

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

[Refrain]

Offertory hymn

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.

[Refrain]

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.

[Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations! show
thy kingly reign on earth below;
thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
restore the ruin of our fall.

[Refrain]

Latin, Tr. T.A. Lacey (1853-1931) & others

Tune: Veni Emmanuel

Communion Hymn

The Lord will come and not be slow,
his footsteps cannot err;
before him righteousness shall go,
his royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
shall bud and blossom then;
and justice from her heavenly bower,
look down on mortal men.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
this wicked earth redress;
for thou art he who shalt by right
the nations all possess.

The nations all whom thou hast made
shall come, and all shall frame
to bow them low before thee, Lord,
and glorify thy name.

For great thou art, and wonders great
by thy strong hand are done:
thou in thy everlasting seat
remainest God alone.

John Milton 1608-74

Tune St Stephen

Final Hymn

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
bear his People's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

When he comes,

When he comes,

Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
till the time expected
nurtured and protected.

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.

unborn Son of Mary,
saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

Jesus comes!

Jesus comes!

We will make him welcome!

F. Pratt Green b 1903 Tune: Personent Hodie