

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

## 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 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 to misery.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 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.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 all peoples in one heart and mind;  
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

*One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:*

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.


TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite  
 MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988  
 Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL  
 LM with refrain


## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104




1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



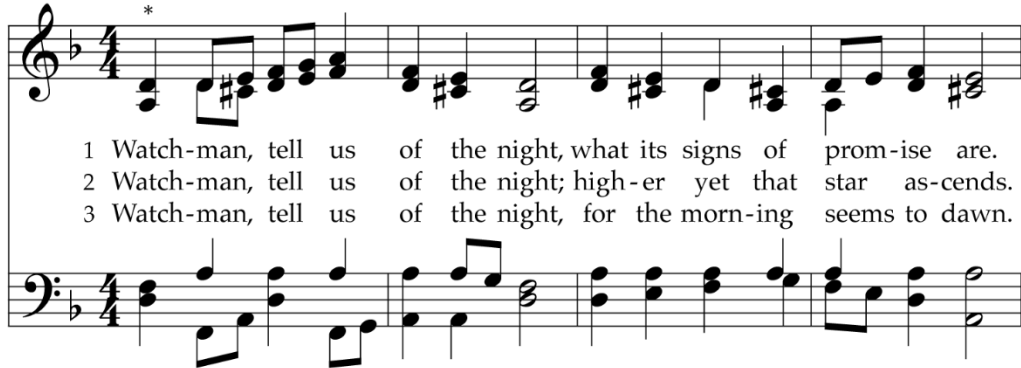
O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



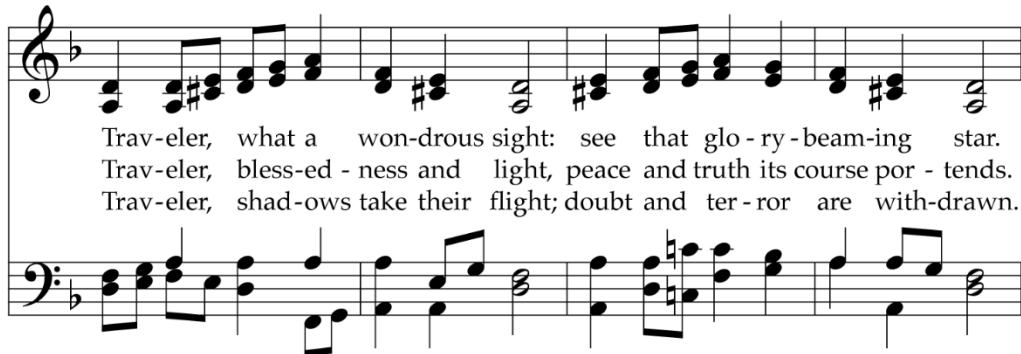
to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

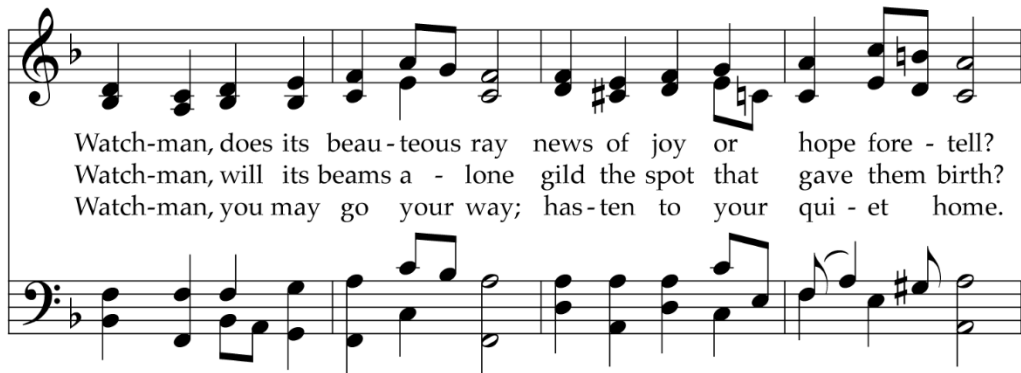
# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97

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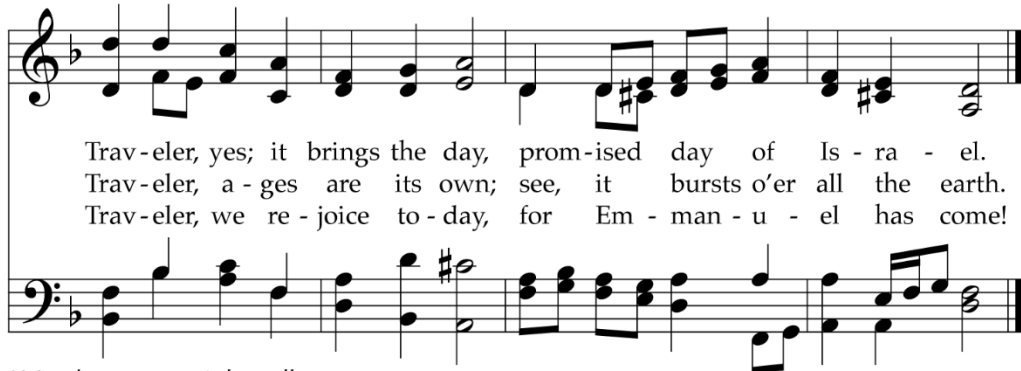
1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.  
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.



Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
 Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.  
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?  
 Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
 Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.



Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.  
 Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
 Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

\*May be sung antiphonally.

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means "mouth of the bending river."

# God Be with You Till We Meet Again 541

*Unison* *Harmony*

1 God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov-ing coun-sels  
 2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; un-seen wings pro-  
 3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per-ils  
 4 God be with you till we meet a-gain; keep love's ban-ner

guide, up-hold you, with a shep-herd's care en-fold you:  
 tect-ing hide you, dai-ly man-na still pro-vide you:  
 thick con-found you, put un-fail-ing arms a-round you:  
 float-ing o'er you; smite death's threat-en-ing wave be-fore you;

*Unison*

God be with you till we meet a-gain.

A North American Congregational minister wrote this text as a Christian expansion of the root sense of "good-bye": God be [with] ye/you. The tune, named for a cousin, was composed by one of the few 20th-century British composers to make a major contribution to hymnody.