



## O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



One of my favorite Christmas songs is "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." There are a lot of versions of this song, but recently, a band that I like released a new version of this song that is getting some backlash. The music video that was created for this version takes place in both a church and a hospital room, setting the mood for the longing that is truly felt through the lyrics of this traditional carol.

The text for "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" comes from a 7-verse Latin poem that dates back to the 8th century. In 1851 it was translated into English by J.M. Neale but reduced to 5 verses. Today, most people and churches only sing about 3 of the verses.

The original text originated in part from the "Great 'O' Antiphons," or titles of the Messiah from the Hebrew scriptures, as part of the medieval Roman Catholic Advent liturgy. The antiphons are:

- Sapientia** (wisdom) – "O come, O Wisdom from on high"
- Adonai** (lord, master) – "O come, O come, great Lord of might"
- Radix Jesse** (root of Jesse) – "O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem"
- Clavis David** (key of David) – "O come, O Key of David, come"
- Oriens** (rising, dayspring) – "O come, O Bright and Morning Star"
- Rex Gentium** (king of nations) – "O come, O King of nations, bind"
- Emmanuel** (God with us) – "O come, O come, Emmanuel"

Traditionally, on each day of the week leading up to Christmas, one responsive verse would be chanted, each including a different Old Testament name for the coming Messiah. Because each verse of this hymn refers to Christ by various Old Testament titles, it exemplifies Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

When we sing each verse of this hymn, we acknowledge Christ as the fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies and rejoice at His first arrival.

Yet, we know that all is not  
right with the world.



In addition to its anticipation of Christ's birth, the hymn can also be interpreted to refer to the Second Coming of Christ.

If you take the first letter of each antiphon from the original text, it creates the reverse acrostic **"ERO CRAS,"** which means *"I will be with you tomorrow"* or *"Tomorrow, I come."*

So, we sing and plead using the words of this hymn that Christ would come again to perfectly fulfill the promise that all darkness will be turned to light.

There's an alternate text with another verse that reads,

*"O Come, Messiah, come again and rid the world of death and sin. Return Thou risen Savior and King, That heav'n and earth at last may sing."*

We rejoice in His first arrival, but long for His second.

God's response is in the reverse acrostic, **ERO CRAS**, *"Tomorrow, I come."*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Derrick Marrs  
Ministry Director

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

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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.

8 O Come, Messiah, come again  
and rid the world of death and sin.  
Return Thou risen Savior and King,  
that heav'n and earth at last may sing.

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## NEW PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Help Bancroft Bible Camp  
Raise Funds by Taking Your Vehicle to**



**For A Great Shine Every Time!**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Purchase any single car wash to help Bancroft Gospel Ministry raise funds for our Bible Camp to help with operational costs and support our efforts! We will receive 30% of the single wash sales earned using our fundraiser's wash code!

**Visit any of the TruShine Car Wash Locations**

203 Linden Square Drive Bristol, VA 24202	25017 Western Loop Abingdon, VA 24211
3033 Boones Creek Road Johnson City, TN 37615	2227 Fort Henry Drive Kingsport, TN 37664
116 Allensville Road Sevierville, TN 37876	1912 Highway 394 Blountville, TN 37617
1541 W Jackson Blvd Jonesborough, TN 37659	

**Follow the Instructions Below**

Pull up to one of the pay stations.  
Follow the screen prompts to buy a single wash.  
Push the "ENTER WASH CODE" button at the bottom left of the screen.

**Enter Wash Code: 14140**

14140 is the unique number associated with this fundraiser.  
You must enter this code to participate in the fundraiser.  
Select the car wash of your choice.  
Select your payment method. Insert Payment.  
If preferred, print the receipt for your records.

**Thank you for participating in the  
Bancroft Bible Camp Fundraiser!**



You can now partner with Bancroft through donating stocks to help financially support the ministry!

By donating stock that has increased in value, you will avoid paying tax on the capital gains. Many donors have found this is an easy way to increase their donation while helping themselves at tax time.

[Donate Stock to Bancroft!](#)



For the price of a movie ticket or a fast-food meal, you can make a lasting impact for the kingdom of God by supporting a ministry who has served the Lord and our community for over 100 years!

Click the button below and become part of a team of people desiring to make an eternal difference by financially supporting Bancroft! You can give **more** than \$10 if you choose and you can even make it a recurring donation for your convenience!

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## ONLY TWO MORE EPIISODES IN SEASON 1

Have you given the podcast a listen lately? We only have two more episodes in Season 1, but we are working hard to get Season 2 ready for you! We are making a few changes, so we hope that it will enhance your experience!

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[www.bancroftgospelministry.org/stopandconsider](http://www.bancroftgospelministry.org/stopandconsider)



If you are into the podcast world, below are the links to your favorite podcast platforms for easy access. Currently, the only podcast that has video is through Spotify, but videos to YouTube are coming in Season 2! Be sure to subscribe, like, and comment!

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New episodes drop every two weeks, and as always, THANKS for listening!

### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EPISODE!**

We only have a few more episodes in Season 1, but don't let the end of Season 1 send you into a depressing holiday slump!

Christmas is coming early with a special **EXTRA** episode dropping the week before Christmas (Friday, December 19)!



Also, because you are all on Santa's Nice List, we will be bringing you a new weekly podcast called, "**Camp Tales!**"

Camp Tales will be a shorter, weekly podcast filled with stories about camp both past and present.

We will have special guests throughout the year and plenty of stories. So, in between seasons, there will still be plenty of content for you to consume!

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