

It's just three days to Christmas: and for our prayers today, a suitable beginning, I think, is this carol which has the very appropriate invitation in its refrain, 'I pray you be merry and sing with me, in worship of Christ's Nativity' MUSIC ["where riches is everlasting"] 2:40

Xmas Music  
from Kings  
28

In the week

leading up to Christmas Day, the Advent prayer of the Church takes on a stronger note of urgency, in expectation and longing. At Evening Prayer each day, is used one of those seven "O" Antiphons, so called because they each begin with that exclamation, and which are the basis for the verses of that probably now most well-known Advent hymn, 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'. But there's a crescendo too in the scriptural sentences which make up the verses for the Entry Song & the Communion Song in the Mass liturgy for this week: signposts to prayer, you might call them, invitations to pray in the spirit of this season. "The Lord is coming from heaven in splendour to visit His people, and bring them peace and eternal life: You heavens, sing for joy, and earth exult! Our Lord is coming, he will take pity on those in distress: The Desired of all nations is coming, and the house of the Lord will be filled with his glory: Christ our King is coming, the Lamb whom John proclaimed: His name will be called Emmanuel, which means God is with us: the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to guide our feet on the road to peace: Soon the Lord God will come, and you will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us: A little child is born for us, and he shall be called

the mighty God - every race on earth shall be blessed in him: the appointed time has come. God has sent His Son into the world: blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people." Another old carol now, from Germany this time: a version by early 17<sup>th</sup> c. composer Samuel Scheidt of the ever-green 'In Dulci Jubilo' MUSIC 3:15

Verehan Fab.  
13

O Wisdom, you

come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come and teach us the way of truth: Come Emmanuel. O Key of David and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again: what you close, no one can open. O come to lead the captive from prison: free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death: Come Emmanuel. O Rising Sun, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death: Come Lord Jesus. O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you made from clay. O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge, the one whom the peoples await and their saviour. O come and save us, Lord, our God. Another carol now: this one from North America and the Huron Indians, sung and recorded a few weeks ago in Chung Chi college chapel for Radio TV Hong Kong MUSIC (Tape)

"Twice in the Moon of Wintertime"

PRAYERS (cf. 653)

(end) Advent Pref. 2

PREFACE  
10:10

MUSIC (Away in a Manger) [Nativity of Xmas 15]