



## Carols of Christmas

Week 1: O Come, O Come Emmanuel | Teacher: Libin Abraham

Sermon Questions for 12.3.2023

### Opener

Do you prefer sentimental or funny Christmas cards?

### Read

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:3; Isaiah 11:1-2; Revelation 3:7-8; Luke 1:78-79;

### Main Points

1. This carol holds both sadness and joy. The call to rejoice is situated in mourning.
2. At Christmas, we are looking back 2000 years ago and celebrating the coming of our deliverer, our rescuer, our ransom.
3. If you have deep longings of the heart, you find yourself right in the heart of this 1200 year old hymn, and we're invited (together with the saints of old) to direct all of our longings in this prayer, "O Come O Come, Emmanuel."
4. The plan of God to save the world, the wisdom of the Father to redeem humanity is Jesus. At Christmas, we don't just meet a Savior who came to sacrifice for us, we meet a Lord who calls us to reorient our whole life to his wisdom and truth.
5. For those who need their soul delivered from *captivity*, Jesus is *Emmanuel*, God with us. For those who need *direction* and *guidance* in a lost world - he is *wisdom* from on high. For those feeling *powerless* and *unable*, he is *Lord of Might*. For those dealing with the *dry rings of pain and sorrow*, he is the *fresh branch that shoots out* from Jesse's stem. For those who *wish to fear death no longer*, Jesus is the *Key of David* that opens heaven and closes off death. For those who *battle the dark night of the soul*, he is the bright and *morning star*. For those who battle the *sad divisions of the human heart*, Jesus is the king of nations, the prince of peace. And this king is with us now! So *Rejoice, Rejoice*, because Emmanuel is here and Emmanuel is coming.

### Engage with God in a Group

- Which phrase of this carol resonates the most with you?
- What is the significance of recognizing that joy and sadness can oftentimes coexist in the same moment/same season of life?
- When have you experienced sadness and joy together?
- How might God want to encourage someone in your life through this carol this year?

### Bottom Line

God is with us, not just yesterday and not just tomorrow, but he's with us now.