

THE GREAT ANTIPHONS

(source: An Episcopal Prayerbook,
through Diana Beach)

December 16. O Sapientia. O Wisdom : which camest out of the mouth of the Most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things : Come and teach us the way of prudence.

December 17. O Adonai. O Adonai : and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the Law in Sinai : Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

December 18. O Radix Jesse. O Root of Jesse : which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek : Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

December 19. O Clavis David. O Key of David : and Sceptre of the house of Israel, that openest, and no man shutteth, and no man openeth : Come and bring the prisoner out of the prison-house, and him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 20. O Oriens. O Dayspring : Brightness of Light Everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness : Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 21. O Rex Gentium. O King of the Nations : and their Desire; the Corner-stone, who makest both one : Come and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.

December 22. O Emmanuel. O Emmanuel : our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation : Come and save us, O Lord our God.

December 23. O Virgo virginum. O Virgin of virgins : how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

ADVENT

2 VENI EMANUEL

ART. T. HELMORE, 1854

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the antiphon 'Veni Emmanuel'. The first staff is a vocal line in G major, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second and third staves are piano accompaniment, also in G major, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a 4/4 time signature.

O COME, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
*Refrain! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Refrain

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Refrain

4 O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
From every foe deliver them
That trust thy mighty power to save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Refrain

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
Refrain

6 O come, thou Day-spring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain Amen.

Latin, c. 9th cent.