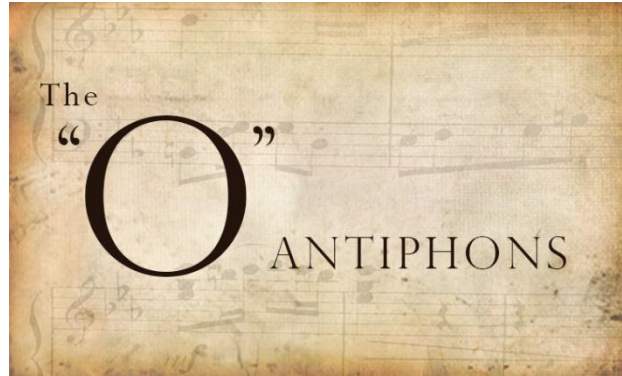


## AN ADVENT EVENING PRAYER BASED ON THE O ANTIPHONS



This fuller evening service is based on the O Antiphons. The service includes music with a cantor or small schola. The Advent wreath and other candles may be lit before the service begins.

In gentle darkness lit by many candles and with Advent music, the service begins with an Advent carol.

### **Advent Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come Emmanuel,  
to free your captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,  
to you shall come Emmanuel.

O royal branch of Jesse's tree,  
redeem us all from tyranny;  
from pain of hell your people free,  
and over death win victory.  
Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,  
to you shall come Emmanuel.

O come, great daystar, radiance bright,  
and heal us with your glorious light.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,  
to you shall come Emmanuel.

*The 'O' Antiphons – J.M. Neale*

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Leader:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Leader:**

We are gathered together to sing our evening praise and to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's kingdom and so to prepare ourselves to celebrate with joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.

Creator and redeemer of the human race,  
it was your will

that your Word should take flesh  
in the womb of the ever-virgin Mary.

Grant that your only Son  
who came to share our human nature  
may lead us to share in his divine life.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

Each antiphon is sung by a cantor after the short scripture reading; the setting of Seoirse Bodley is very accessible. In this setting, each antiphon ends with a congregational response: *Maranatha. Come, Jesus. Come.* If not sung it can be spoken.

### **Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (24:3-8)**

“I (Wisdom) came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist.  
I dwelt in the highest heavens,  
and my throne was a pillar of cloud.  
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven  
and traversed the depths of the abyss.  
Over the waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
and over every people and nation I have held sway.  
Among all these I sought a resting place;  
in whose territory should I abide?  
Then the Creator of all things gave me a command.  
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.  
He said, ‘Make your dwelling in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance.’”

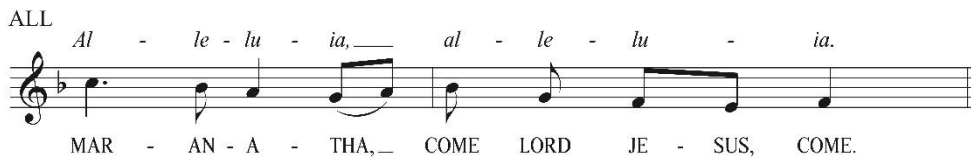
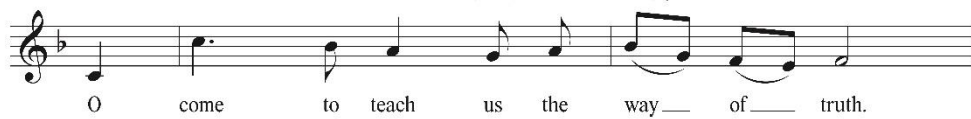
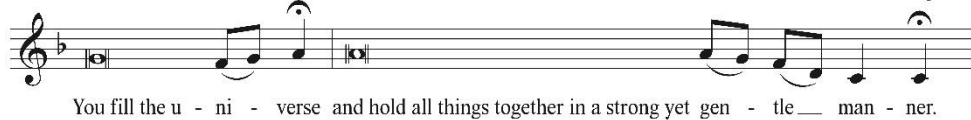
*Pause*



*The title in each case is sung first by the cantor and repeated by all.*

Seoirse Bodley

O SAPIENTIA / O WISDOM December 17



*Pause*

### **Reading from the Book of Exodus (6:2-4a,6-7a)**

God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name 'The Lord' I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them...Say therefore to the Israelites, 'I am the Lord, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgement. I will take you as my people, and I will be your God.'"

*Pause*

O ADONAI December 18

O Ad - on - ai, and leader of Is - ra - el,  
You appeared to Moses in a bur - ing bush and you gave him the law on Si - nai.  
O come and save us with your migh - ty pow'r.

ALL  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
MAR - AN - A - THA, COME LORD JE - SUS, COME.

*Pause*

### Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (11:1,10)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
And a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

O RADIX JESSE / O STOCK OF JESSE December 19

O Stock of Jes - se, you stand as a signal for the na - tions,  
kings fall silent be - fore you whom the peo - ples ac - claim.  
O come to de - li - ver us, and do not de - lay.

ALL  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
MAR - AN - A - THA, COME LORD JE - SUS, COME.

*Pause*

### Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (42:5-7)

Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:  
 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
 I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
 a light to the nations,  
 to open the eyes that are blind,  
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.

*Pause*



O CLAVIS DAVID / O KEY OF DAVID December 20

O Key of Dav - id, and sceptre of Is - ra - el,  
 what you open no one else can close a - gain; what you close no one can o - pen.  
 O come to lead the capt - ive from pris - on; Free  
 those who sit in dark - ness and in the shad - ow of death.

ALL  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
 MAR - AN - A - THA, COME LORD JE - SUS, COME.

*Pause*

**Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (9:2,6)**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests on his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Pause*



O ORIENS / O RISING SUN December 21

O Ris - ing Sun, You are the splendour of e - ter - nal light,  
and the sun of just - ice. O come and en - ligh - ten  
those who sit in dark - ness and in the shad - ow of death.

ALL *Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.*

MAR - AN - A - THA, COME LORD JE - SUS, COME.

*Pause*

### Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah (3:16b-18a,20))

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak,  
the Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
on a day of festival.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at that time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

*Pause*

O ORIENS / O RISING SUN December 21

O Ris - ing Sun, You are the splendour of e - ter - nal light,  
and the sun of just - ice. O come and en - ligh - ten  
those who sit in dark - ness and in the shad - ow of death.  
ALL Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
MAR - AN - A - THA, COME LORD JE - SUS, COME.

*Pause*

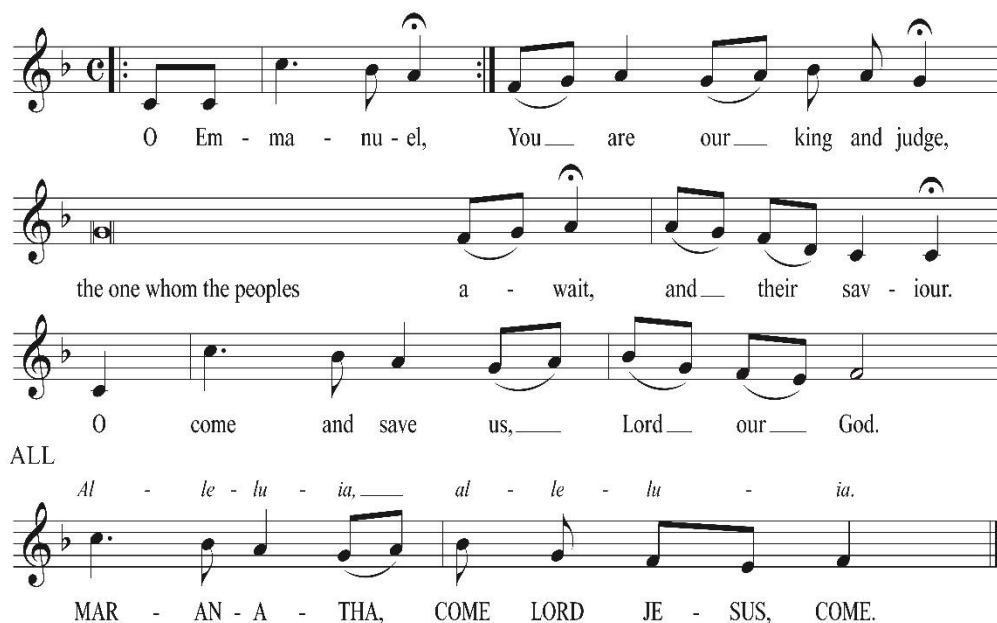
### Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (7:10-14)

Again, the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ‘Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel, that is God is with us.’

*Pause*



O EMMANUEL December 23



O Em - ma - nu - el, You are our king and judge,  
the one whom the peoples a - wait, and their sav - iour.  
O come and save us, Lord our God.  
ALL  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
MAR - AN - A - THA, COME LORD JE - SUS, COME.

*Pause*

**Magnificat:** can be sung or said.

*Joseph Walshe, OCSO*



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant,  
and from this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me:  
holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit,  
he has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and has sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

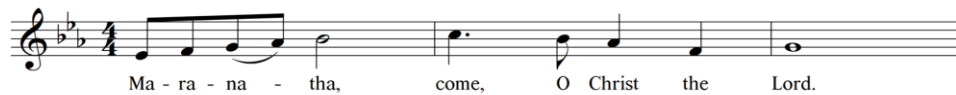


Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

## Litany

R/

Moira Bergin RSM 2020



The Son of God is coming with great power: all peoples shall see his face and be reborn. R/  
You bring us wisdom, fresh understanding and new vision. R/  
You bring us good news, and power which will transform our lives. R/  
You bring us truth, showing us the way to the Father. R/  
Born of a woman, you will open in our flesh the way to eternal life and joy. R/

## The Lord's Prayer

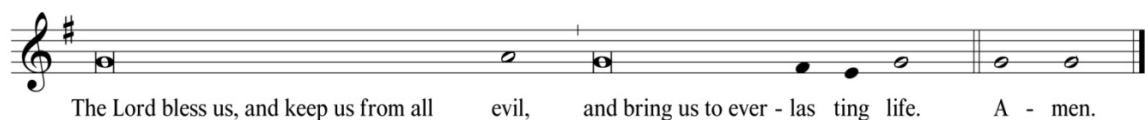
**Leader:** Let us now pray/sing in the words our Saviour gave us: Our Father.....

## Concluding Prayer and Blessing

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!  
We entrust ourselves to your love:  
Strengthen us by your advent and raise us up,  
For you live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us from all evil,  
And lead us to everlasting life.

**All: Amen.**



## Concluding Hymn

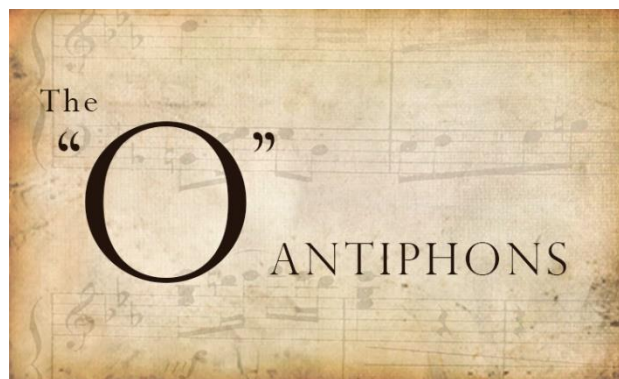
### O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel,  
to free your captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,  
to you shall come Emmanuel.

O key of David's city, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home:  
make safe the way that leads above,  
protect us ever by your love.  
Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,  
to you shall come Emmanuel.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who once appeared on Sinai's height,  
and gave your faithful people law,  
in all the splendor we adore.  
Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,  
to you shall come Emmanuel.

*The 'O' Antiphons – J.M. Neale*



**Prepared by the National Centre for Liturgy, Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.**

**The National Centre for Liturgy acknowledges with gratitude, permission granted by Seoirse Bodley to incorporate his composition of the 'O Antiphons' in the Evening Prayer.**