



Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Monday, December 7
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Stanza 3

O, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

— Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Koln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866

In waiting, we learn to become a source of strength. In the dim days of winter, we wait for the sun to return. We wait in times of worry and fear for our hope to return. Right now, we wait to gather with family; we wait to be close to our friends. In order to gain strength through this waiting, it's essential that we see and linger in the simple, tender and sometimes tiny moments of love that are around us each day. Perhaps we are inspired by someone helping to dig a stranger's car out of the snow or the couple down the street who regularly checks on an elderly neighbor. Maybe it's an extra burst of beautiful kindness from the person working at the grocery store or someone yielding a seat on the bus. Or you're lucky enough to overhear a senior college student say to a first year before their performance, "You got this." Glimpses of these exquisite moments help our dark days become lighter, our hope to swell, and transform our despair to gratitude.

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