



o come, o come,
emmanuel
advent — day 12

— call to worship

*His Name for ever shall endure, last like the sun it shall;
Men shall be blessed in Him, and blessed all nations shall Him call.
Now blessèd be the Lord, our God, the God of Israel,
For He alone does wondrous works, in glory that excel.
And blessèd be His glorious Name to all eternity;
The whole earth let His glory fill.
Amen, so let it be. | Based on Psalm 72:17–19*

— meditation

The spiritual and eternal clothed itself in the form of the natural and temporal. God himself, Elohim, Creator of heaven and earth, as Yahweh, God of the covenant, came down to the level of the creature, entered into history, assumed human language, emotions, and forms, in order to communicate himself with all his spiritual blessings to humans and so to prepare for his incarnation, his permanent and eternal indwelling in humanity. | Herman Bavinck

— reflection

What must it have been like for the King of creation to enter in and subject Himself to emotion, to tears, to pain, and to need? A God who never had any need became subject to nursing from His young mother and on her to clean and bathe Him. We will never fully understand what a sacrifice this alone was!

— hymn of praise

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming,
From tender stem has sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung;
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary, we behold it,
The virgin mother kind;
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

*O Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.*

*O Savior, Child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of Glory,
Who does our weakness know,
Bring us at length we pray,
To the bright courts of Heaven
And to the endless day. | Anonymous*