

Last days of Advent and Christmas Eve:-

The text to look at during this week is verse 6 in the original Latin and does not appear in most hymn books. The translation which fits the usual tune is by H. Coffin and was not published until 1916.

O King of the nations, and their desire, (*see 1 Peter, chapter 2, verses 6-8*)

The cornerstone making both one:

Come and save the human race,

Which you fashioned from clay.

O come, Desire of nations, bind

All peoples in one heart and mind;

Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;

Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel. *trans. H. S. Coffin (1916)*

Our thoughts and prayers this week can concentrate on the coming of the Kingdom of God. Remember that at his first coming the key message of our Lord Jesus Christ was "*The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel*" Mark chapter 1, verse 15. Some verses from Psalm 24, 7 – 10 are appropriate as we wait for His "*coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory*" Matthew chapter 24, verse 30.

Christmas Eve:-

As we rejoice in the coming into our world of the Lord Jesus Christ this Christmastide we look forward to his coming again in glory. He is the hope of the nations and their Saviour. At his coming there will be 'peace on earth' when our exile is over and we rejoice with all the saints in his kingdom.

O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver,

The hope of the nations and their Saviour:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel;

That mourns in lonely exile here,

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.