



Anthem: "Come Messiah, Come Emmanuel"

from *Have You Heard: A Celtic Christmas Celebration* by Joel Raney

According to The Emily Post Institute, the making of introductions is an important skill for creating a good impression and for making connections. Among the Institute's tips for making strong introductions are these:

1) Speaking clearly, 2) Using names and titles, and 3) Starting a conversation

The world's introduction to Jesus began with prophetic scriptures long before Jesus was born.

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14b

The first personal introduction to Jesus was foretold as coming from a voice in the wilderness declaring:

"Prepare the way for the Lord." Isaiah 40:3a --Matthew 3 identifies the voice to be that of John the Baptizer.

John's own introduction included that Jesus would give the Holy Spirit to people in a way John could not:

"... after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Matthew 3:11

The Spirit of God introduced Jesus following Jesus' baptism by descending like a dove and lighting on Jesus:

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" Matthew 3:17

These introductions to Jesus hold true to making a lasting impression and creating a human connection:

1) The message is spoken clearly – in both the Old and New Testaments

2) Names and titles are used – the Lord, Immanuel, my Son

3) A conversation is started – Jesus fulfills God's plan of redemption and salvation. This is the most important conversation of all time for all people.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for introducing us to Jesus, our Redeemer and Messiah.

Anthem Text

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.

Come Messiah.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art:

dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Come Messiah.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;

born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

Come Messiah.

By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone.

By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Come Messiah. Come Emmanuel.