JOSHUA 24:15-24

SPEAKER 1
If it is displeasing to you to serve the LORD, choose today whom you will serve, the gods your ancestors served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling.
    ALL: “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

SPEAKER 2
But the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our ancestors up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. He performed those great signs before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among all the peoples through whom we passed.
    ALL: “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

SPEAKER 2
At our approach the LORD drove out all the peoples, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land.
    ALL: “Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

SPEAKER 3
Joshua in turn said to the people, “You may not be able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God; he is a passionate God who will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve strange gods, he will then do evil to you and destroy you, after having done you good.” But the people answered Joshua
    ALL: “We will serve the LORD.”

SPEAKER 4
Joshua therefore said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.” They replied,
    ALL: “We are witnesses!”

SPEAKER 4
“Now, therefore, put away the foreign gods that are among you and turn your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” Then the people promised Joshua,
    ALL: “We will serve the LORD, our God, and will listen to his voice.”

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Verse 1)
O come, O come, Emmanuel
    And ransom captive Israel
    That mourns in lonely exile here
    Until the Son of God appear

(Refrain)
    Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
    Shall come to thee, O Israel

(Verse 2)
O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
    Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai’s height
    In ancient times didst give the law
    In cloud, and majesty and awe

(Refrain)
    Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
    Shall come to thee, O Israel

(Verse 3)
O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
    Thine own from Satan’s tyranny
    From depths of hell Thy people save
    And give them victory o’er the grave
God of love, who brought love into this world,
**Response:** Be the love that dwells between us.

God of peace, who brought peace into this world,
**Response:** Be the peace that dwells between us.

God of Joy, who brought joy into this world,
**Response:** Be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
**Response:** Be the center, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

ALL
Advent God we journey with you to Bethlehem’s stable and a new-born King,
Ears attuned to the song of angels. Eyes alert for Bethlehem’s star.
Forgive us if on our journey we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Savior. Amen