

Behind the Hymn: Come, Our Lord!

On May 9, 2005, I received an email from a visitor to LNWhymns.com, Sheila Kanan of Haverhill, Massachusetts. She was looking for a hymn or anthem based on Isaiah 65:17-25. Every Advent her local church did a Festival of Lessons and Songs, and this Isaiah passage was always included. For many years they had used the same older piece because they could find nothing else. She asked if we had any alternatives.

I wrote back with a few suggestions. I also told her that as the Lord led and provided, I'd write a new hymn on the passage.

During that same time period, the Lord had repeatedly brought to my mind the old Stephen Foster song, "Old Black Joe". Some would understandably be offended by the title, but I felt that the tune was excellent and deserved being turned to good use.

On the evening of May 16, the tune was pressed on my mind again, this time in connection with the Isaiah 65 hymn idea. The hymn was completed two days later.

--Ken Bible

Hymn: Come, Our Lord!