

Reflection Saturday 3rd Week Advent 17 December 2022

Today we begin the O antiphons reflected in the Hymn: *O Come! O Come Emmanuel!*
Today's verse:

"O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth." It is repeated in the Alleluia verse.

In the Old Testament names were important. The name Abraham derived from Abram (*"The Father [or God] Is Exalted"*), only later he was named by God: Abraham (*"The Father of Many Nations"*). While Isaac's name means *"he will laugh"*, reflecting the laughter, in disbelief, of Abraham and Sarah, when told by God that they would have a child. Jacob comes either from the Hebrew root meaning *"to follow, to be behind"* but also *"to supplant, circumvent, assail, overreach"*, or from the word for "heel" which can also mean **"may God protect"**. His name was changed to Israel by God and simply means **"A people chosen by God."**

The names in the genealogy reveal a history of God working with and among his people preparing for the day when Christ would be born among us.

*I cannot think unless I have been thought,
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken.
I cannot teach except as I am taught,
or break the bread except as I am broken.
O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,
O Light within the light by which I see,
O Word beneath the words with which I speak,
O founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me,
O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,
O Memory of time, reminding me,
my Ground of Being, always grounding me,
my Maker's Bounding Line, defining me,
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,
come to me now, disguised as everything. Malcolm Guite*