

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 29th December 2020 - Online

The Gathering

Introit The Matin Responsory

I look from afar: And lo, I see the power of God coming, And a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come To reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

(First Responsory of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins, early medieval Roman rite) Matin Responsory David Willcocks (1919-2015); after Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (ca. 1525-1594)

Hymn O come, O come Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel

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.

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.
Rejoice, etc.

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.
Rejoice, etc.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, etc.

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice, etc.

Tr. J. M. NEALE and Compilers

Bidding Prayer and Introduction

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

and also with you.

My brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us, in this holy season, reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

A time of silent prayer which the president draws together in the Collect of Advent Sunday

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father...

Readings - The King and his kingdom

Zechariah 9:9,10

Rejoice greatly, your king comes to you

⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem,

and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River^[a] to the ends of the earth.

Thanks be to God

Anthem

People look East

Besancon Carol Melody arr. Malcom Archer (b.1952)

Jeremiah 23:5,6

I will raise up for David a righteous branch

⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David^[a] a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

⁶In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Saviour.

Thanks be to God

Hymn The Lord will come and not be slow

[UNISON]

The Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.

2

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then;
And justice, from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.

3

[UNISON]
Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
This wicked earth redress;
For thou art he who shalt by right
The nations all possess.

4

The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord,
And glorify thy name.

[UNISON]

5

For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.

JOHN MILTON

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

- ² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
- ⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
and he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

Thanks be to God

Anthem The truth from above

English traditional carol arr. R Vaughan Williams

Isaiah 7:10-15

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you^[a] a sign: The virgin^[b] will conceive and give birth to a son, and^[c] will call him Immanuel.^[d] ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right.

Thanks be to God

Hymn Come Thou long expected Jesus

<p><i>mf</i> 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art; Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p><i>f</i> Born thy people to deliver; Born a Child and yet a King; Born to reign in us for ever; Now thy gracious kingdom bring.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p><i>mf</i> By thy own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone: By thy all-sufficient merit, Raise us to thy glorious throne.</p>
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C. WESLEY

Romans 12: 1,2; 13:(8)11-14

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed

¹² Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is

nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Thanks be to God

Hymn Hark a thrilling voice is sounding

Vox clara ecce intonat

<i>f</i> Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding ; ‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say ; ‘Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!’	<i>mf</i> Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heaven ; Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all to be forgiven ;
Wakened by the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise ; Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.	That when next he comes with glory, And the world is wrapped in fear, With his mercy he may shield us, And with words of love draw near.
<i>f</i> Honour, glory, might, and blessing To the Father and the Son, With the everlasting Spirit, While eternal ages run.	

Tr. E. CASWALL‡

Gospel Matthew 25.1-13

Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour

²⁵ “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars

along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Thanks be to God

Prayers

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
We pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for this diocese of Blackburn, for our Bishops Julian, Jill, and Philip, and all who minister in this place. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. We pray for all who suffer in heart, body & Spirit, for the lonely and the grieving. For those who are missing human touch and family due to coronavirus. Break into

our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember those who have died recently, those whose anniversary falls at the time, and all those who we love but no longer see. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you, that with St James, St Stephen, St John, St Thomas all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Anthem

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

St Ambrose (340-397)

Traditional melody M. Praetorius (1571-1621) arr. David Willcocks

Conclusion

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn Lo, He comes with clouds descending

f Lo, he comes with clouds descend-
ing,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.

p Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty; [him,
Those who set at naught and sold
Pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

mf ³ Those dear tokens of his Passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

[UNISON] *f* ⁴ Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

C. WESLEY and J. CENNICK

Organ Postlude