



All Saints Oakham

Advent Carol Service



Sunday 1 December 2019

6:00pm

An Introduction to this Service

Advent Sunday marks the beginning of a period of preparation and waiting as we look towards Christmas Day and the birth of Christ. It also marks the beginning of the Church's year which proceeds through Christmas and Epiphany, to Lent and Holy Week and on to Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost. Today we begin a pilgrimage through the year that follows the way of Christ on earth and so endeavours to allow his footsteps to lead our own, his story to shape our story.

For this reason, this is a service filled with movement, as the clergy and choir make their way from the west to the east end of the church. On the way, the readings will be read from the various places of our commitment to God: the doors where we enter and are sent out to the world, the font where we dedicate ourselves to God, the aisle where we share the peace and build up our common life, the lectern where we hear God's word and the pulpit where we reflect on it, the choir stalls where we worship and the altar where we receive the body and blood of Christ. So the measured steps of this service describe the pattern of our lives together, forming us as Christ's people.

The service is structured around the seven Advent antiphons, the traditional refrains used at evening prayer in the seven days before Christmas Eve. They call on God to come to us as teacher and deliverer. As we begin to measure out the days until Christmas we await the coming of the one by whose measure the true identity and destiny of the world will be revealed; he who 'fills all creations and reigns to the ends of the earth', as the first antiphon puts it.

In Him is our hope, in Him is the light that came into the world and overcomes our darkness. In Him is wisdom, salvation and redemption. He is the Sun of Righteousness who scatters the darkness from before our paths. We look for the arrival of his presence among us, now as we await Christmas, and throughout the year, in all our steps as we journey on.

Please stand as the lights are turned off

Matin Responory

The choir sings from the Trinity Chapel

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.

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?

*Words: translated from the First Responory of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins (early medieval Roman rite)
Music: Palestrina (c1525-1594), adapted by Stephen Cleobury (b 1948)*

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ,
as we await the great festival of Christmas
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.
Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture,
how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit
and redeem his waiting people.
Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.
Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,
will bring all men and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,
the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.
But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves,
for those who have not heard the good news of God,
or who do not believe it;
for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,
and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God,
in the words which Christ himself taught us:

All

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

¶ O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

Please sit

Antiphon

The choir sings

O wisdom,
coming forth from the Most High,
filling all creation and reigning
to the ends of the earth;
come and teach us
the way of truth.

Advent Antiphons, The Promise of His Glory, ed Stephen Cleobury

First Reading – Ecclesiasticus 24.1-11

Wisdom speaks of her origin from the mouth of God and her dwelling place in God's people.

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: 'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway. Among all these I sought a resting-place; in whose territory should I abide? 'Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance." Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting-place, and in Jerusalem was my domain.

¶ O Adonai (O Lord of Lords)

Please sit

Antiphon

The choir sings

O Lord of Lords,
and ruler of the House of Israel,
you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush,
and gave him the law on Sinai:
come with your outstretched arm
and ransom us.

Second Reading – Exodus 3.1-12

Moses encounters God's holiness in the fire of a burning bush and is called to lead the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

Carol

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
his beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and wait awhile:
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and wait awhile:
under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
this fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Words: from Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, compiled by Joshua Smith
Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)*

Hymn

Please stand



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|--|--|---|---|
| 1 | On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings. | 3 | For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay. |
| 2 | Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty Guest may come. | 4 | To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more. |
| 5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore. | | | |

*Words: Jordanis oras praevia, Charles Coffin (1676-1749) tr John Chandler (1806-1876)
Music: Winchester New, adapted from a chorale in Musicalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg, 1690 (Ancient & Modern – 46)*

¶ O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

Please sit

Antiphon

The choir sings

O root of Jesse,
standing as a sign among the nations;
kings will keep silence before you
for whom the nations long;
come and save us
and delay no longer.

Third Reading – Isaiah 2.2-4

The prophet Isaiah foretells that God will bring peace to all nations.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Hymn

Please stand

The procession moves to the North Transept.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above. | 3 Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word. |
| 2 Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true. | 4 Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night |
| 5 Shout, as ye journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the universe be blest. | |

*Words: Editors of English Praise 1975, based on Charles E Oakley (1832-1865)
Music: Little Cornard, Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
(Ancient & Modern – 39)*

¶ O Clavis David (O Key of David)

Please sit

Antiphon

The choir sings

O key of David
and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and none can shut;
you shut and none can open:
come and free the captives from prison,
and break down the walls of death.

Fourth Reading – Isaiah 42.5-9

Isaiah looks forward to that day when God will set His people free and they will see His glory.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Organ

Chorale Prelude 'Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme' BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Awake, we are called by the voice [of the watchmen]. Bach's Chorale Prelude for organ is based on his cantata of the same name (BWV 140), based on the Lutheran Hymn by Philipp Nicolai, written for the last Sunday before Advent

Hymn

Please stand



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding;
‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say;
‘cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day.’ | 3 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; |
| 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies. | 4 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. |
| 5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run. | |

Words: Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

(Ancient & Modern – 38)

¶ O Oriens (O Morning Star)

Please sit

Antiphon

The choir sings

O morning star,
splendour of the light eternal
and bright sun of righteousness:
come and bring light
to those who dwell in darkness
and walk in the shadow of death.

Fifth Reading – Isaiah 9.2,6-7

Isaiah tells of birth and of the Messiah and his coming rule and reign.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol

People, look east to see at last hopes fulfilled from ages past:
now in the promise of the morning, see, a brighter day is dawning,
rich with the visions long foretold, prophets' dreams from days of old.

God reaffirms the gracious call: words of welcome meant for all;
comfort enough for all our sorrows; justice shaping new tomorrows.
Mercy bears fruit in lives restored, freed to praise and serve the Lord.

Now, with the coming of the light, darkest fears are put to flight;
see how the clouds of gloom are clearing, blown aside by hope's appearing.
Jesus, the Light of all our days, comes and sets our hearts ablaze.

Born of our race, a child so small – hail the promised Lord of all!
Nailed to a cross for our salvation, he shall rule God's new creation.
Lift up your eyes, and look again: see, he comes in power to reign!

Words: Martin Leckebusch (b 1962)

Music: Besancon carol melody, arr Barry Rose (b 1934)

Please stand

The procession moves to the Chancel.



- 1 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.
- 2 Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
the Saviour, now to us displayed.
- 3 From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds;
runs out his course to death and hell,
returns on God's high throne to dwell.
- 4 O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on the fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.
- 5 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.
- 6 O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy spirit, evermore. Amen.

*Words: Veni Redemptor gentium, St Ambrose (c340-397) tr J M Neale (1818-1866) and others
Music: Puer Nobis Nascitur, adapt Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), harm G R Woodward (1848-1934)
(Ancient & Modern – 32)*

¶ *O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)*

Please sit

Antiphon

The choir sings

O king of the nations,
you alone can fulfil their desires:
cornerstone, binding all together:
come and save the creature
you fashioned
from the dust of the earth.

Sixth Reading – Zechariah 9.9-10, 16-17

The prophet tells of the lowly and triumphant entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem to save and bless those who turn to Him.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. On that day the Lord their God will save them, for they are the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. For what goodness and beauty are his! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

Carol

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near; the Saviour of the world is here.
O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ as ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes to whol the King in triumph comes!
Come then, O Saviour, and abide; our hearts to thee be open wide;
May all thy inward presence feel, to all thy grace and love reveal.

*Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635) trans Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) altd
Music: Richard Shephard (b 1949)*

Hymn

Please stand



- 1 Lift up your heads ye mighty gates, 2 O blest the land, the city blest,
 behold the King of glory waits, where Christ the ruler is confessed;
the King of kings is drawing near, O happy hearts and happy homes
 the Saviour of the world is here. to whom this king in triumph comes.
- 3 Come then, O Saviour, and abide;
 our hearts to thee be open wide;
 may all thy inward presence feel,
 to all thy grace and love reveal. Amen.

*Words: George Weissel (1590-1635), tr Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) and editors of NEH
Music: Gonfalon Royal, Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947) – AM 257
(New English Hymnal – 8)*

¶ O Emmanuel

Please sit

Antiphon

The choir sings

O Emmanuel,
our King and Lawgiver,
hope of the nations
and their saviour:
come and save us,
O Lord our God.

Seventh Reading – Matthew 1.18-23

St Matthew tells of the manner of the birth of the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

Carol

Ave Maria gratia plena Dominus tecum
benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria Mater Dei ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

*Words: The Angelic Salutation
Music: Alan Bullard (b 1947)*

Vesper Responsory & Collect

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord, he will be with you
Stand ye still and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord
Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord, he will be with you
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord, he will be with you

We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord
In the midst of thy temple.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming, grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Music: Palestrina (c1525-1594), adapted by Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no man evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all men;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

Hymn

Please stand



- 1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.
- 2 Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 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! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) & John Cennick (1718-1755)
Music: Helmsley, melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725-1799),
included in John Wesley's Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed 1765
(Ancient & Modern – 41)*

Organ

Grand Chœur

Théodore Salomé

Laudamus – The Team Choir
Director of Music: **Kevin Slingsby**; Organist: **Paul Butler**
Team Rector: **Revd Stephen Griffiths**