



THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Looking for the Light



Sunday 27th November 2022

Welcome

Welcome to our Advent Carol Service. The service begins with just a few lights lit, enough to ensure your comfort. The aim of this service is to encourage reflection upon the coming of Christ as a light in the darkness of this world.

This Advent service is decidedly *not* a Christmas Carol Service. Advent has its own traditional, distinctive and challenging thrust: the expectant longing for the coming of Christ's kingdom in our own day.

This unique service is based on the Advent Collect, which is said at the start of the service. You may wish to pray it over quietly before the service begins. It invites us boldly to prepare for the Second Coming, whether we understand that to be at the time of our death or at a time when God's kingdom is fully established on earth.

The Collect for Advent Sunday also recognises that the light of God can never be overcome. The Procession begins in the chancel with that light shining from the Paschal Candle alone. After each reading from scripture, a candle will be lit at the base of the Paschal candle. These, along with the movement of the Procession and the lighting of candles in the congregation symbolise the light being brought into the world and returning to its source in the final unity of all creation at the Second Coming.

The service proceeds without announcement.

THE GATHERING

*The Officiant gives an informal welcome
and introduction to the service*

VOLUNTARY

Johann Sebastian Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

***Please remain seated as the choir and clergy
process to the chancel***

CHOIR

Matin Responsory

David Willcocks

V: I look from afar:

*R: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the
whole earth.*

V: Go ye out to meet him and say:

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

V: High and low, rich and poor, One with another,

R: Go ye out to meet him and say:

*V: Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a
sheep.*

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come?

V: Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come

R: To reign over thy people Israel.

V: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*R: I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud
covering the whole earth.*

V: Go ye out to meet him and say:

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Please stand

HYMN

*During which the congregation's candles are lit
and the choir process to their stalls.*

Puer Nobis Nascitur

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 thy 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.

THE GREETING

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.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

All

Amen.

From the One who is, who was, and who is to come, grace, mercy and peace be with you.

All

And also with you.

THE BIDDING AND INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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 which 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 in 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.

In a dark and disfigured world
we have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.

All

Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world
we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his
Son to be our Saviour, forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE ADVENT COLLECT

Let us pray, using the words of the Collect
for Advent Sunday

All **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.**

Please sit

ANTHEM

O thou, the central orb

Charles Wood

O thou, the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most High, eternal Light of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine. Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove. Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

(H.R. Bramley)

FIRST READING

GOD CREATES THE LIGHT

Genesis 1.1-5

Anne Blair

Reader The night is far gone, the day is near.

***All* Let us cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light!**

Please stand

HYMN

Vienna

*During which the first candle is lit
and the nave lights are put on*

1 Blest Creator of the light,
making day with radiance bright,
thou didst o'er the forming earth
give the golden light its birth.

2 Thou didst mark the night from day
with the dawn's first piercing ray:
darkness now is drawing nigh;
listen to our humble cry.

3 May we ne'er by guilt depressed
lose the way to endless rest;
nor with idle thoughts and vain
bind our souls to earth again.

4 Rather may we heav'nward rise
where eternal treasure lies;
purified by grace within,
hating ev'ry deed of sin.

5 Holy Father, hear our cry
through thy Son our Lord most high,
who our thankful hearts adore
with the Spirit evermore.

THE RESPONSORY

All Restore us, O Lord God of hosts:
**Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

All Will you not give us life again
that your people may rejoice in you?

All Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

All Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Please sit

SECOND READING

A PLEA FOR LIGHT

Sarah Hosking

Psalm 13

Reader The night is far gone, the day is near.
All **Let us cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light!**

ANTHEM

During which the second candle is lit

O Dayspring

John Stainer

O Dayspring! Brightness of the everlasting light, and Sun of righteousness:
Come, and enlighten them that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.
(Advent antiphon)

THE RESPONSORY

All Now it is the time to awake out of sleep,
For the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

All Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,
For the night is far spent.

All Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
For the day is at hand.

All Put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and make no provision for the flesh:
For the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

THIRD READING

THE GOD WHO FORMS LIGHT AND CREATES DARKNESS

Isaiah 45.2-8

Bridget Sorel-Cameron

Reader The night is far gone, the day is near.
All **Let us cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light!**

ANTHEM

During which the third candle is lit

Drop down, ye heavens

Richard Lloyd

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness:
let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour. Be not very angry, O Lord,
neither remember our iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Jerusalem
a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.
We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: our
iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and
hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. Ye are my witnesses, saith the
Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe
me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none
that can deliver out of my hand. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation
shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: fear not, for I
will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.
(The Advent Prose)*

FOURTH READING

LOOK TO THE EAST

Baruch 4.36-5.9

Tim Raistrick

Reader The night is far gone, the day is near.

All Let us cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light!

THE RESPONSORY

My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:
in your word is my hope.

All My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:
in your word is my hope.

There is forgiveness with you,
so that you shall be feared.

All In your word is my hope.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All **My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:
in your word is my hope.**

Please stand

HYMN

During which the fourth candle is lit

Besancon Carol

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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!

Please sit

FIFTH READING

YOU ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, FOR YOU ARE
CHILDREN OF LIGHT

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11, 23, 24

James Sorel-Cameron

Reader The night is far gone, the day is near.

All Let us cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light!

THE RESPONSORY

All We wait for your loving kindness, O God,
in the midst of your temple.

All The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:
and all flesh shall see it together.

All Show us your mercy, O Lord:
and grant us your salvation.

Please stand

HYMN

During which the fifth candle is lit

Wachet Auf

1 Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
the watchmen all the air are filling,
arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying,
'where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
raise high your torches bright!
Alleluia!
The wedding song swells loud and strong:
go forth and join the festal throng.

2 Zion hears the watchmen shouting,
her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
she stands and waits with eager eyes;
see her Friend from heaven descending,
adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son!
Alleluia!
Let us prepare to follow there,
where in thy supper we may share.

3 Every soul in thee rejoices;
from earth and from angelic voices
be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
thy presence never more shall leave us,
we stand with angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
the bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluia!
Grant us to raise, to length of days,
the triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Please remain standing for the Gospel

GOSPEL READING

All The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

All The night is far gone, the day is near.
**Let us cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light!**

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

BE READY FOR THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN

Luke 12.35-40

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

ANTHEM

During which the sixth candle is lit

African-American Spiritual, arr. Douglas Keilitz

*Better be ready; better be ready; Better be ready; better be ready to try on your long white robe! Oh! Rise up, children, get your crown, and by your Saviour's side sit down. Better be ready... What a glorious morning that will be, our friends and Jesus we shall see. Better be ready... O shout, you Christians, you're gaining ground, we'll shout old Satan's kingdom down! Better be ready... I soon shall reach that golden shore, and sing the songs we sang before.
Better be ready...*

THE INTERCESSIONS

In joyful expectation of his coming to light our way, let us pray to Jesus.

Please kneel or remain seated

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.
Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.
Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us
free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.
Give us with all the faithful departed
a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.
Lift us up to meet you, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary and
all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in
your new creation.

Maranatha:

All 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.

All Amen.

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words
our Saviour taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those who 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.

Please stand

HYMN

Veni, Emmanuel

1 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.*

2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory over the grave. (*refrain*)

3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
and drive away the shades of night
and pierce the clouds and bring us light! (*refrain*)

4 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. (*refrain*)

5 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*)

THE DISMISSAL

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on
the armour of light.

All Come, O Lord, comfort the soul of your servant.
Even so, Lord, come.

All O Lord Jesus Christ, come
At evening time, with light

All And in the morning, with your glory,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

He who receives our prayers says: Surely I come quickly.
I am the root and offspring of David, I am the bright and
morning star.
All **Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the
darkness from before your path, and make you ready to
meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon
you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

***Please remain standing as the choir and clergy process
to the back of church***

Voluntary

Toccata on 'Veni, Emmanuel'

Andrew Carter

**You are welcome to stay for mulled wine and mince pies which
are served at the back of church following the service.**

Christmas Services at Holy Trinity

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

5pm Christingle Service

FRIDAY 23rd DECEMBER

7pm Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

3.30pm-6pm Walk-through Carol service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Holy Communion

10am All-Age Christmas Parish Eucharist