



# THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

## Looking for the Light



**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

# 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*

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

## ANTHEM

*Adam Lay Ybounden*

Howard Skempton

*Adam lay ybounden,  
Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden written  
In their book.*

*Ne had the apple taken been  
The apple taken been;  
Ne had never our lady  
A-been heavene queen.*

*Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen  
Deo gratias!*

***Please stand***

## HYMN

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

1. 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.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

CROSS OF JESUS  
Words, CHARLES WESLEY (1707-88)  
Music, JOHN STAINER (1840-1901)

## 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  
**Amen.**

**All**

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,

**All** through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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

*A Tender Shoot*

Otto Goldschmidt

*A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,  
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:  
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,  
turning our darkness into light.*

*This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;  
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;  
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,  
Thus turning darkness into light.*

## FIRST READING

GOD CREATES THE LIGHT

Genesis 1.1-5

*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**

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

1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'
2. Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.
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;
4. So when next he comes in glory,  
And earth's final hour draws near,  
May he then as our defender  
On the clouds of heaven appear.
5. Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the co-eternal Spirit,  
While unending ages run.

MERTON  
Words, 6TH CENTURY LATIN  
Translated, EDWARD CASWELL (1814-78)  
Music, WILLIAM HENRY MONK (1823-89)

**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

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*

*Advent Prose*

Stephen Cleobury

*Refrain*

*Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down right-  
eousness.*



## Verses

- 1. Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins for ever. Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.*
- 2. We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away. You have hidden your face from us and abandoned us to our iniquities.*
- 3. You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know me and believe me. I myself am the Lord and none but I can deliver; what my hand holds, none can snatch away.*
- 4. Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.*

### ***Please stand***

## **HYMN**

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood:  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.
  
4. At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the Presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord most High!

PICARDY  
Words, 4TH CENTURY GREEK  
Music, 17TH CENTURY FRENCH CAROL

## 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

*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*

*Lift up your heads*

William Mathias

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates,  
And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors,  
And the king of glory shall come in.*

*Who is this king of glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty,  
The Lord mighty in battle.*

## **FOURTH READING**

**LOOK TO THE EAST**

Baruch 4.36-5.9

*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**

Besancon Carol

*During which the fourth candle is lit*

1. Hills of the North, rejoice,  
Echoing songs arise,  
Hail with united voice  
Him who made earth and skies:  
He comes in righteousness and love,  
He brings salvation from above.
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.
3. Lands of the East, arise,  
He is your brightest morn,  
Greet him with joyous eyes,  
Praise shall his path adorn:  
The God whom you have longed to know;  
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.
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 you journey on,  
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.

LITTLE CORNARD

Words, C. E. OAKLEY (1832-1865)

Music, MARTIN SHAW (1875 – 1958)

*Please sit*

## **FIFTH READING**

**YOU ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, FOR YOU ARE  
CHILDREN OF LIGHT**                      1 Thessalonians 5.1-11, 23, 24

*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.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord:

**All** and grant us your salvation.

***Please stand***

**HYMN**

*During which the fifth candle is lit*

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.

WACHET AUF  
Words, PHILIPP NICOLAI (1556-1608)  
Music, JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

***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 and extinguish your candle***

## **ANTHEM**

*During which the sixth candle is lit*

*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 ray  
To souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.*

## **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 long-  
ing 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.**

**ANTHEM**

*Choir only. Please remain seated.*

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*      *arr. John Rutter*

*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 over the grave.*

*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!*

*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.*

*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.*

***Please stand***

## 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.**

## HYMN

1. Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favoured sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluya! (3 times)  
God appears, on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him  
Robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing (3 times)  
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 (3 times)  
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:  
O come quickly! (3 times)  
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

HELMSLEY

Words, CHARLES WESLEY

Melody, THOMAS OLIVERS (1725-99)

## 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

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 661)*

J. S. Bach

**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 15th DECEMBER**

**5pm** Christingle Service

### **SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER**

**5pm** 'Blue Christmas' service

### **MONDAY 23rd DECEMBER**

**7pm** Lessons and Carols

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**3.15pm-5.30pm** Walk-through Carol service

**11.30pm** Midnight Mass

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8am** Holy Communion

**10am** Eucharist for all ages

Printed using CCLI licence no. 4968