

THE TEMPLE CHURCH



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024

6.00 p.m.

ADVENT: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

'God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years . . . And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night . . . And God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.' Genesis 1: 14-19

*Thou lamp of God, and spacious World's vast Light,
Of thee how shall I sing? of thee how write?
For here I find the Danger is,
With Bards of old, the Way to miss.
Of thee a God, they strangely wond'ring made,
And to thy Fire devoutly Homage paid.*

*The ancient Bards did see, and do, no more.
But I a brighter Sun than thee adore.
The Sun, I mean, that gave thee Light,
A Sun ten thousand times more bright.
Ah! who can thee sufficiently admire,
O God, my Sun, or thee enough desire?*

*Hail, thou faint image of th' Eternal Sun!
Oh that with thee my Race I now could run!
Oh that I could with thee obey!
And oh that I did never stray!
But with thee always keep within my Line,
And with thee always in his Service join. . .*

*Me with new Life from God thou dost inspire,
That seeing thee I burn with rapt'rous Fire.
Thou art the Glory of thy Lord:
Thou art the Image of His Word:
And I with thee now praise my LORD and thine,
That be my Sun, may ever on me shine. Amen.*

*Thomas Traherne (1637-1674), Hexameron:
Meditations on the Six Days of the Creation, Fourth Day*

The O Antiphons (also known as the Great Advent Antiphons) are Magnificat antiphons sung at vespers on the last seven days of Advent. They appear to date back at least to the 6th century; and became one of the foundational musical features of the season. The texts are familiar from their paraphrase in the carol, 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'. The Antiphons provide the structure of this evening's service.

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

From *Das Orgelbüchlein*:

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland – Gottes Sohn ist kommen – Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn – Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Church is in darkness at the start of the service. All stand as the lights go down.

Choir O, Do not move

O do not move, listen to the gentle beginning.

Music: Sir John Tavener (1944-2013)

Words: Giorgos Seferis (1900-1971)

All remain standing.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1: 1-5

God creates light, and separates it from darkness.

IN THE BEGINNING God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Thanks be to God.

ILLUMINE, O Lord, with the light of thy truth our hearts within us and our paths before us, that we may traverse under thy protection the darkness of this world and come at the last to the vision of thy glory. We ask this in the name of thy Son, the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. Amen.

Choir Antiphon

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti,
attingens a fine usque ad finem fortiter:
suaviter disponens que omnia:
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

Music: Springfield Antiphonal c. 1300

Words: The Great O Antiphons – Rite of Salisbury

The Choir processes into the Chancel during the hymn.

All *O come, O come, Emmanuel!*
O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the elder law.

Music: 'Veni, Emmanuel', copied by John Mason Neale from a French Missal

*Words: 'Veni, veni, Emmanuel', first recorded in *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*,
1710; translated by Thomas Alexander Lacey (1853-1931)*

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 15: 21-22, 45-52, 54^b-55

St Paul reveals the mystery of the First and Second Adams.

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also which are earthy: and as is the heavenly,

such are they also which are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. Then shall be brought to pass the saying which is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting?
O grave, where is thy victory?

Thanks be to God.

Choir Antiphon

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel,
qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti,
et ei in Sina legem dedisti:
veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

*O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.*

Music: Springfield Antiphonal c. 1300
Words: The Great O Antiphons – Rite of Salisbury

Choir Rorate Caeli

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum:
aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.
Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Drop down ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness:
let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Lord, thou hast blessed thy land: thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

Music: William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)
Words: Introit for Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin during Advent

THE THIRD LESSON

Matthew 3: 1-12

John the Baptist announces the coming of Christ.

IN THOSE DAYS came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: and think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

Antiphon

O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum,
super quem continebunt reges os suum,
quem Gentes deprecabuntur:
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

*O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.*

Music: Springford Antiphonal c. 1300

Words: The Great O Antiphons – Rite of Salisbury

Choir

This is the record of John

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; and said plainly, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, what art thou then, Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Words: John I: 19-23

All stand. During the hymn, the choir processes to the Round.

All

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

**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!**

**Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our heart prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away
Like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thy hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

Music: 'Winchester New', *Musikalisches Handbuch* (Hamburg, Germany, 1690)

Words: 'Jordanis oras praevia', Charles Coffin, *Hymni Sacri*, 1736, and Paris Breviary, 1736

All sit.

Christ speaks of those who await his coming.

LET YOUR LOINS be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Antiphon

O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vincitum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, Who dost open and no man doth shut, Who dost shut and no man doth open, come and bring forth from his prisonhouse the captive that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Music: Springford Antiphonal c. 1300

Words: The Great O Antiphons – Rite of Salisbury

Choir Hymn to the Mother of God

Ave, maris stella,
 Dei Mater alma,
 Atque semper Virgo,
 Felix caeli porta.

*Hail, star of the sea,
 Loving Mother of God,
 And also always a virgin,
 Happy gate of heaven.*

Solve vincla reis,
 Profer lumen caecis,
 Mala nostra pelle,
 Bona cuncta posce

*Break the chains of sinners,
 Bring light to the blind,
 Drive away our evils,
 Ask for all good.*

Vitam praesta puram,
 Iter para tutum,
 Ut videntes Jesum,
 Semper collaetemur.

*Keep life pure,
 Make the journey safe,
 So that, seeing Jesus,
 We may always rejoice together.*

Sit laus Deo Patri,
Summo Christo decus
Spiritui Sancto,
Tribus honor unus.
Amen.

*Let there be praise to God the Father,
Glory to Christ in the highest,
To the Holy Spirit,
One honour to all three.
Amen.*

Music: Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
Words: Vesper hymn, c.9th century

During the hymn the choir processes back to the stalls.

All stand.

All Tell out, my soul

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore.**

Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)
Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) based on Luke 1: 46-55

All sit.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1: 26-46a

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she is to bear a son, Jesus.

AND IN THE SIXTH MONTH the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; and entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: and she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Antiphon

O Oriens, splendor lucis æternæ, et sol justitiæ:
veni, et illumina sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

*O Dawn of the East, brightness of the light eternal and sun of justice:
come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

Music: Springford Antiphonal c. 1300

Words: The Great O Antiphons – Rite of Salisbury

Choir

Benedictus (Stanford in C)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:

for he hath visited and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us:

in the house of his servant David

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets:

which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies:

and from the hand of all that hate us.

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers:

and to remember his holy Covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham:

that he would give us;

That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies:

might serve him without fear;

In holiness and righteousness before him: all the days of our life.

And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest:

for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people:

for the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God:

whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death:

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Words: St Luke I. 68-79

All stand.

All

Come thou long expected Jesus

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.

Israel's strength and consolation,

Hope of all the earth thou art,

Dear desire of every nation,

Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,

Born a child and yet a King,

Born to reign in us for ever,

Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Music: 'Cross of Jesus', by Sir John Stainer (1840 - 1901)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

All sit.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Isaiah 60: 1-5a

The prophet proclaims the coming of light to the peoples of the earth.

ARISE, SHINE; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

Antiphon

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

O King of the Gentiles and the Desired of them, Thou Cornerstone that dost make both one, come and deliver man, whom Thou didst form out of the dust of the earth.

Music: Springford Antiphonal c. 1300

Words: The Great O Antiphons – Rite of Salisbury

Choir

O radiant Dawn

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of Eternal Light,

Sun of Justice,

Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness

And the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied,

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light.

Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.' Amen.

Music: from *Strathelyde Motets*, James Macmillan (b. 1959)

Words: based on Isaiah 9. 2

All stand.

All Hills of the north, rejoice

Hills of the north, rejoice;
River and mountain-spring,
Hark to the advent voice;
Valley and lowland, sing:
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
He judgement brings and victory.

Isles of the southern seas,
Deep in your coral caves
Pent be each warring breeze,
Lulled be your restless waves:
He comes to reign with boundless sway,
And make your wastes his great highway.

Lands of the east, awake,
Soon shall your sons be free;
The sleep of ages break,
And rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and grey,
Has dawned the everlasting day.

Shores of the utmost west,
Ye that have waited long,
Unvisited, unblest,
Break forth to swelling song;
High raise the note, that Jesus died,
Yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.

Shout, while ye journey home;
Songs be in every mouth;
Lo, from the north we come,
From east and west and south.
City of God, the bond are free
We come to live and reign in thee!

Music: Little Cornard, Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Words: Charles Edward Oakley (1832-1865)

All sit or kneel.

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

ALmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

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.**

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness arise and scatter the darkness from before your path; that you may be ready to greet him with joy when he is born as a child this Christmas, and to stand before him with confidence when he comes again to be our judge. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Choir Antiphon

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, expectatio gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine Deus noster.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the Nations and their Saviour, come to save us, O Lord our God.

Music: Springford Antiphonal c. 1300

Words: The Great O Antiphons – Rite of Salisbury

Choir And the Glory of the Lord

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Music: from *Messiah*, G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Words: Isaiah 40. 5

All stand.

All *Lo, he comes with clouds descending*
Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.
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.

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,
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Music: 'Helmsley', 18th century English melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725-99) and included in Charles Wesley, *Select Hymns*, 1765

Words: Charles Wesley, *Hymns of Intercession for all Mankind*, 1758 (with some words borrowed by a later editor from a hymn by John Cennick, 1752)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV661

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

There will be a retiring collection. Contactless collection points will be available at the door. It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly use one of our gift aid envelopes. These can be found at the end of the pew. If you would prefer to donate online, kindly scan the QR code below.

Thank you!

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Front Cover: The Annunciation, Florentine School (perhaps Pietro di Giovanni di Ambrogio), by courtesy of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.