

**A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
FOR
ADVENT:
THY KINGDOM COME**



*Christ Pantocrator, (detail)
Basilica of Hagia Sophia, Ravenna*

**Advent Sunday, 3rd December, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Advent is a time of watching and waiting. These days, especially where children are concerned (and, it has to be said, the retail industry!), the waiting is exclusively focussed on Christmas and, in Australia, all that goes with that: summer holidays, swimming, relaxing after a hard year of school or work, for catching up with family and friends. It is also a time of preparation for inevitable gatherings: finding food, presents, trees. There is much to rejoice in this – the time spent with others, a chance to reflect and rest a little (unless you're the one responsible for the dinner and wrapping the presents!)

From the earliest days of the Church, however, Advent was also a time in which the focus was waiting and preparing for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ as universal judge and king at the end of time. The very name of the season “Advent” derives from the Latin for “to come” or “coming”. This second coming of Jesus had two elements. There was indeed to be judgement – hence the rise of understandings of “The Last Judgement”. For this reason, Advent was observed as a time of penitential reflection. Indeed, in the earliest days (as it still does for the Orthodox), the season ran from mid-November – thus the same length as the other penitential season, Lent. In the West this led to an alternative name “St Martin’s Lent” (St Martin’s day being November 11).

Yet the Church also looked forward to a time when Jesus’ reign of peace and justice would be established throughout the world. The expectation that the coming kingdom for which the Church has prayed since our Lord gave the words to his disciples will be one that brings both fear (“save us from the time of trial”) *and* rejoicing meant that, more recently, there has been more focus on the *differences* between Lent and Advent, as well as the recognition of their similarity.

It is the joyful expectation of the coming Kingdom that dominates our Advent Carol Service this year. For this reason, the title adopted comes with the hopeful sense it does in the prayer from which it is drawn: “Thy Kingdom come”. As one Advent hymn has it:

*Thy kingdom come, O God,
Thy rule, O Christ, begin;
Break with thy iron rod
The tyrannies of sin.*

And concludes: “Arise, O Morning Star, Arise and never set.”

Before the service begins, the organist plays:

'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen' by Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

During this, the Church building goes into darkness and the people keep silent, as we create a moment of 'waiting'.

The choir sings:

INTROIT

A tender shoot

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.

Words & Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1829–1907)
Tr. William Bartholomew (1793–1867)

Please stand as the processional hymn begins. As the candles lead the procession, the acolytes will light candles at the end of each row. Please then pass on the light to those around you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1. *Solo* *Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.*
2. *Choir* *Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised fruit to all displayed.*
3. *Choir* *The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honour all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.*

4. *All* Forth from his chamber goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.
5. *All* From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds;
His course he runs to death and hell,
Returning on God's throne to dwell.
6. *All* O equal to the Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.
7. *All* All laud, eternal Son to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

Words: St Ambrose (340–97)

trans. J.M. Neale (1816–66)

Music: Melody adapted by Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)

Harmony by G.R. Woodward (1848–1934)

Descant by David Willcocks (1919–2015)

BIDDING PRAYER

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

We are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope.

And as we seek to renew our allegiance to God's loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

Our Father,
**Which 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 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.**

Please sit.

The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit as the choir sings this prayer.

The congregation is invited to join in the parts marked 'Full'.

Cantor *mf* Bless-ed are you, Sov-reign Lord, God of our an-ces-tors: to you be praise and glo-ry for ev-er!

Full *mf*

Choir: You call all people to live by the light of faith,
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.
May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful
to receive your Christ,
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Cantor *mf* for you are our light and our sal - va - tion. Bless-ed be God for ev - er.

Full *mf*

Words: The Archbishops' Council (Church of England)
Music: Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

The congregation now extinguishes their candles.

FIRST LESSON

ZECHARIAH IX: 9, 10

'Rejoice greatly, your king comes to you'

ANTHEM

Rejoice in the Lord always

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Words: Philippians 4:4–7

Music: Anonymous

HYMN

1. THY kingdom come! on bended knee
The passing ages pray;
And faithful souls have yearned to see
On earth that kingdom's day.
2. But the slow watches of the night
Not less to God belong;
And for the everlasting right
The silent stars are strong.
3. And lo, already on the hills
The flags of dawn appear;
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
Proclaim the day is near:
4. The day in whose clear-shining light
All wrong shall stand revealed,
When justice shall be throned in might,
And every hurt be healed;
5. When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
Shall walk the earth abroad:
The day of perfect righteousness,
The promised day of God.

Words: F. Hosmer (1840–1929)

Music: Irish, Anon.,

Melody first found by S. Powell, Dublin (1749)

SECOND LESSON

JEREMIAH XXIII: 5, 6

'I will raise up for David a righteous branch'

HYMN

All 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.

Lower voices 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.
Rejoice! . . .

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

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

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

*Words: COLOGNE 1710, based on the ancient Advent Antiphons,
trans., T. A. Lacey (1853–1931)*

*Music: Veni Emmanuel, melody adapted from a French Missal,
Thomas Helmore (1811–90);*

Adapted and arranged by David Willcocks (1919–2015)

for the **THIRD LESSON – PSALM XXIV**

1. The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is:
the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.
2. For he hath founded it upon the seas:
and prepared it upon the floods.
3. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord:
or who shall rise up in his holy place?
4. Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart:
and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity,
nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.
5. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord:
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
6. This is the generation of them that seek him:
even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.
7. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:
and the King of glory shall come in.
8. Who is the King of glory:
it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.
9. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors:
and the King of glory shall come in.
10. Who is the King of glory:
even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Chant: Joseph Barnby (1838–1896)

FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH IX: 2, 6, 7

'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light'

ANTHEM

For unto us a child is born

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Words: Isaiah 9:6

Music: from 'Messiah' by George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

FIFTH LESSON

ISAIAH VII: 10 – 15

'Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son'

All stand for the Magnificat

MAGNIFICAT

MY soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

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: Luke 1:46–55

Music: *Evening Service in F* by George Dyson (1883–1964)

All sit.

SIXTH LESSON

ROMANS XII: 1, 2; XIII: 11 – 14

‘Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed’

HYMN

1. ‘Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying:
‘Awake, Jerusalem, arise!’
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the rousing cry rejoices:
‘Where are you, all you virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lighted lamps then take.
Hallelujah!
With joy prepare to meet him there;
the royal wedding feast is near.’

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and in her heart new joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom;
For her Lord now comes all-glorious,
and strong in grace, in truth victorious,
her Star has risen, her light has come.
Now come, O precious crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Hail hosanna!
O lead us all into the hall
where you provide your joyful meal!
3. Now let all the heavens adore you,
and saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbals' joyful tone;
gates of pearl in heaven are shining,
there, with the angel-choir combining,
we gather round your radiant throne.
No eye has seen that sight,
no ear heard such delight.
What rejoicing!
Yet there will we eternally
with songs acclaim your majesty.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)
trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)
Music: Melody by Philipp Nicolai,
Harmony by J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

All remain standing for the reading from the gospel

SEVENTH LESSON

MATTHEW XXV: 1 – 13

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

ANTHEM

O Thou, the Central Orb

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.

Words: H. R. Bramley (1833–1917)
Music: Charles Wood (1866–1926)

PRAYERS

Ending with the Collect for Advent Sunday:

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.

Please stand.

HYMN

During which a collection will be taken to assist with the musical ministry of the parish.

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
Shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of His Passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers:
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:
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)
Music: Melody noted by T. Olivers (1725–99)
Included in Wesley's *Select Hymns* (1765)
Descant by David Willcocks (1919–2015)

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL

‘Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme’, Op. 78, No. 18
By Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933)

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy recess.

Please join us in the Hall following this service for some Advent refreshments.

The Choir of St George’s, Malvern

Soprano: Mahalia Brooks, Suzie Hill, Kate Kirby, Anna Marsh, Meg Nelson,
Elina Pugacheva, Marie Tobin

Alto: Gillian Baldwin, Christina Green, Judy Mallinson, Judy Wright

Tenor: Ross Brooks, Luna Verratti, Stewart Webb

Bass: Mick Graham, John Mallinson, Josh McLeod, Gavin Watson

Director of Music: Tom Baldwin

Organist: Christopher Cook

CHRISTMAS SERVICES at St George's, Malvern



Come celebrate the Prince of Peace!

Christmas Eve

- 5:00 p.m. Children's Service
- 10:30 p.m. Carols in the Church
- 11:00 p.m. First Communion of Christmas ("Midnight Mass")

Christmas Day

- 9:30 a.m. Traditional Christmas Service

The Christmas season continues until the Feast of the Epiphany (kept this year on January 7). In that time, the following services will be held at St George's. You are welcome at all of them:

St Stephen's day, (aka Boxing Day)

- 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

December 27 (St John, Apostle & Martyr)

- 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

