

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
FOR
ADVENT:
LOOKING FOR THE LIGHT



The Annunciation (1898)
Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937)
Philadelphia Museum of Art

Advent Sunday, 1st December, 2024
6:00 p.m.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The cover of this Order of Service shows a young Jewish-Palestinian woman, in a room with little furniture and even sparser furnishings, sitting in some perplexity and trepidation at the bright light that dominates the room. Given the scene this is attempting to represent (as told in Luke's gospel, chapter 1) we know that young woman was living in a country under foreign domination, with exploitation and cruelty the order of every day. It is no wonder that the visitor she received had to reassure her in their conversation with "Do not be afraid"!

Looking at this image today seems especially heart-rending: given that we frequently see similar images on our televisions almost daily. I said "similar images": except that the images we see today show young women with fewer furnishings and usually lacking the solidity of the walls. And, I suspect, few of them see any 'bright light' shining, unless it is caused by an incendiary device. Of course, given events of just over a year ago, the same can be said for many young Jewish women living in their homes, or in tents at a music festival, before they were subjected to attack, sexual violence, kidnapping, death. Too many now remain trapped and held hostage in tunnels or buildings facing continual bombardment. Again, no "light" shining for them.

From the earliest days of the Church, Advent was 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 expectation of Jesus' second coming has its origin in Jewish apocalyptic thinking. As a long-persecuted race, yet deeply conscious of God's promises, 1st century Jews had a firm hope and expectation that Messiah would come, and the righteous – those faithful to God – would be vindicated, and set free or (in the teaching of the Pharisees) raised from the dead. There would be judgement – hence the rise of understandings of "The Last Judgement" in the Christian West – but it was, for Jews, primarily for the vindication of the righteous.

Tonight, in the midst again of turmoil, violence and a sense of despair, we hope in the promises delivered and believed during other times of anguish and despair. And we pray that the light of the world will dawn, a new kingdom of peace and light will come. Our presence tonight bears witness to that hope. We go from here to live as children of light (as St Paul puts it), that the world may see in us the hope it so desperately needs. In the famous words of one Advent hymn: "Arise, O Morning Star, Arise and never set."

Before the service begins, the organist plays:

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 by J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

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

The choir sings:

Introit

Matin Responsory

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.

Words: Matin Responsory for Advent

Music: adapted from a Magnificat by G.P. da Palestrina (c. 1525–94)

ed. Stephen Cleobury (1948–2019)

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!

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.

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

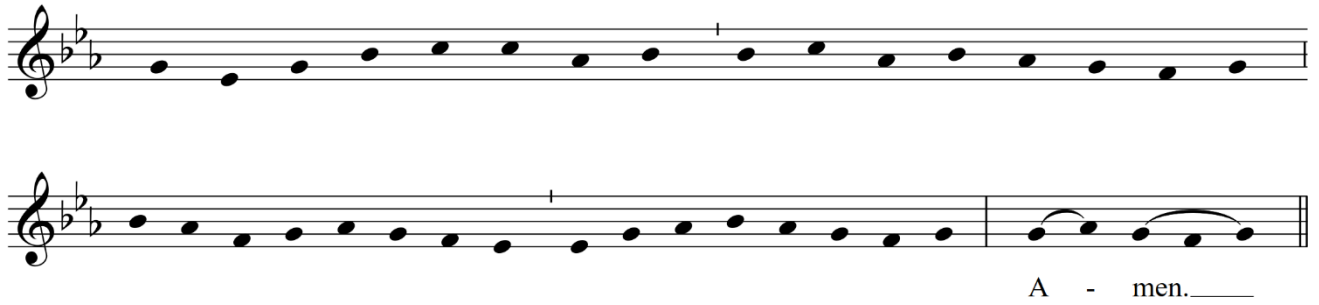
The congregation now extinguishes their candles.

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 1: 1–5

'And God said: Let there be light.'

HYMN



1. Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
Regard thy servants when they call.
2. Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die,
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.
3. Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide;
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.
4. At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
And things in heaven and earth shall own
That thou art Lord and King alone.
5. To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
Our judge in that tremendous day,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every onslaught of the foe.
6. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

Words: Anon., 7th century
Trans. John Mason Neale (1818–66)
Music: Plainsong

for the **SECOND LESSON – PSALM 13**

Sung by the choir

1. *How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord, for ever:
how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?*
2. *How long shall I seek counsel in my soul, and be so vexed in my heart:
how long shall mine enemies triumph over me?*
3. *Consider, and hear me, O Lord my God:
lighten mine eyes, that I sleep not in death.*
4. *Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him:
for if I be cast down, they that trouble me will rejoice at it.*
5. *But my trust is in thy mercy:
and my heart is joyful in thy salvation.*
6. *I will sing of the Lord, because he hath dealt so lovingly with me:
yea, I will praise the Name of the Lord most Highest.*

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.

*Chants: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876)
Jonathan Battishill (1738–1801)*

THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 45: 2–8

‘I form light and create darkness’

ANTHEM

Drop down, ye heavens, from above

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.
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.

*Words: from the Advent Prose
Music: Judith Weir (b. 1954)*

FOURTH LESSON

BARUCH 4:36 – 5:9

'Look to the east'

ANTHEM

People look East

1. People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.
4. Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

Music: Besançon carol

Arr. Barry Ferguson (b. 1942)

FIFTH LESSON

ISAIAH 9: 2–7

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

CHORAL HYMN

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 Day-Spring, come and cheer,
Our Spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

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

*Words: COLOGNE 1710, based on the ancient Advent Antiphons,
Hymns Ancient and Modern (1861)*

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

Arranged by Alice Parker (1918–76) & Robert Shaw (1916–99)

HYMN

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. Amen.

*Words: From the Latin
trans. Edward Caswall (1814–78)
Music: William Henry Monk (1823–89)*

SIXTH LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 1–11, 23, 24

'You are not in darkness, for you are all children of light'

ANTHEM

E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come;
Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!

*Words: Revelation 22
Adapted by Ruth Manz (1919–2008)
Music: Paul Manz (1919–2009)*

SEVENTH LESSON

JOHN 3:16 – 21

'I am the Light of the World'

ANTHEM

God so loved the world

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Words: John 3:16

Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

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

Six Fantasies on Hymn Tunes, Op 72: I. Helmsley
Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy recess.

The Choir of St George's, Malvern

Soprano: Stef Dingnis, Kate Kirby, Meg Nelson, Natalie Reid, Jane Wiebusch

Alto: Gillian Baldwin, Suzanne Hill, Christina Green,
Kay Matthiesson, Stephanie Mitchell, Judith Wright

Tenor: Ross Brooks, Riley Brooks, Belinda Carne, Samuel Daffy

Bass: Josh McLeod, Noah Straughan, Gavin Watson

Director of Music: Tom Baldwin

Organist: Christopher Cook

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST GEORGE'S, MALVERN

COME CELEBRATE THE PRINCE OF PEACE!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WITH STONNINGTON CITY BRASS

Sunday 15 December at 2pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Children's Service

10:30pm Carols in the Church

**11pm First Communion of Christmas
("Midnight Mass")**

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30am Traditional Christmas Service



www.stgeorgesmalvern.org