



**ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
MALVERN**

**SERVICE OF
CAROLS AND LESSONS
FOR ADVENT**



From Darkness to Light

Advent Sunday (28th November), 2021

6:30 p.m.

Welcome to this service of carols, hymns, and lessons as we celebrate the beginning of the new Church year on this Advent Sunday.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his Incarnation, and looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time: 'he will come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead', as we say in the Creed.

Thus, the characteristic note of Advent is expectation, and the fundamental Advent prayer remains: '*Maranatha* – Our Lord, come!' (1 Corinthians 16:11). For the Church, that expectation is hopeful. As well as a time of expectation, Advent is a time of hope: a time when in the waiting, we look in hope for the signs of Christ's return among us. The famous Advent hymn, 'O come, O come Emmanuel', is based on the ancient 'Great O Antiphons'. These antiphons were sung before the Magnificat every evening in the final days before Christmas. The 'O' is a musical expression of a cry of longing, a musical setting of the desire people have for the God for whom we wait. And if you think there is a *double entendre* in that sense of 'O' as a cry of desire for the God who is to come, then you're absolutely right! Advent, Rowan Williams reminds us, sets before us all the richness of religious *eros*! We recognize that the God who creates us in love reaches out to us in love, and sets within our own hearts and lives a desire that can only be fulfilled in and by God.

Furthermore, in the northern hemisphere, Advent begins and continues as the weather becomes colder, the days become shorter and the night longer: the darkness draws in. And yet... the shortest day of the year (in the northern hemisphere) is December 22. In other words, as Advent draws to its close, the season turns from its darkest and looks towards the light – and to the East, from where the sun rises. Thus, Advent also allows us to contemplate a journey from darkness to light.

Given the pandemic-inspired darkness of the last two years in this city, this state, our nation, and world, perhaps tonight we can, in hopeful expectation, begin a movement from darkness to light. May this evening's service help in that, as we look for the coming of the light of the world – as a babe in the manger, and as the returning Lord of all.

Material in this service is drawn from:

An Australian Prayer Book, © Broughton Books, 1994;

Common Worship: Times and Seasons, © The Archbishops' Council, (The Church of England), 2006;

The New English Hymnal, © The English Hymnal Company, Canterbury Press, Norwich (1986); and

Together in Song © The Australian Hymn Book Company, Harper Collins, 1999.

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We gather in darkness, waiting for the light.

The candle bearers enter the church and light is passed through the church.

INTROIT

LOVE IS BORN

Love is born
With a dark and troubled face.
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place
Love is born.
Love is always born.

Words: Michael Leunig (1945–)
Music: Elizabeth-Anne Nixon (1967–)

All stand to sing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Solo Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.

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.

The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honour all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.

All Forth from his chamber goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.

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.

O equal to the Father, thou!
 Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
 The weakness of our mortal state
 With deathless might invigorate.

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), tr. J. M. Neale (1818 - 86) and others.
 Music: Traditional, adapted by M. Praetorius (1571-1621), arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*For Advent Sunday, the first candle on the wreath is lit as the choir sings this prayer.
 The congregation is invited to join in the parts marked "Full".*

Cantor *mf* Full

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* Full

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 (1952-)

BIDDING

Vicar

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the Kingdom of his beloved Son, the Light of the World, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

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 that we recall in that Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of the Holy Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared – especially now as we can gather again and share in community life; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ.

Let us in this holy season, and as we slowly move from the darkness of these times of pandemic, 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 on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair.

Let us pray that they too may all be illumined by Christ who is our light, in the words our Saviour taught us:

Our Father in heaven,
**hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

It is time for us to wake out of sleep,
**for deliverance is nearer to us now
than when we first believed.**

The night is far gone,
the day is near.

Let us, therefore, cast off the deeds of darkness,
and put on the armour of light.

The congregation extinguishes all hand-held candles and sits

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1: 1–5

God creates light, the first element of Creation

CAROL

Veiled in darkness

Veiled in darkness Judah lay,
Waiting for the promised day,
While across the shadowy night
Streamed a flood of glorious light,
Heavenly voices chanting then,
“Peace on earth, peace on earth, goodwill, goodwill to men.”

Still the earth in darkness lies.
Up from death’s dark vale arise
Voices of a world in grief,
Prayers of men who seek relief:
Now our darkness pierce again,
“Peace on earth, peace on earth, goodwill, goodwill to men.”

Light of light, we humbly pray,
Shine upon your world today;
Break the gloom of our dark night,
Fill our souls with love and light,
Send your blessed word again,
“Peace on earth, peace on earth, goodwill, goodwill to men.”

Words: Douglas Letell Rights (1891–1956)

Music: Glenn L. Rudolph (1951–)

The congregation stands

HYMN

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

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: from the Latin, tr. John Mason Neale (1818–66) and others
Music: Conditore Alme (Mode iv)*

All sit

SECOND LESSON

ISAIAH 45: 2–8

The Lord who forms light and creates darkness

ANTHEM

DEWS OF HEAVEN

Dews of heaven bring us the Just One, O clouds, rain him from above
Thus the nations still in darkness, cried for mercy, peace and love.

Open earth, and grow the flower, radiant with grace and power!
Lift your heart, the time is near: Christ the Lord will soon appear.

Solo: Comfort ye my people,
my salvation will not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud your transgressions.

Fear not, for I will save you:
For I am the Lord you God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer.

Rorate coeli desuper: (Let the heavens drop dew from above)
et nubes pluant justuum (And the clouds rain down justice.)

Words: 'The Advent Prose' (*adapted*)

Music: Keren Terpstra (1978–)

THIRD LESSON

BARUCH 4:36 – 5:9

In the east appears the light of God's glory

CAROL

PEOPLE LOOK EAST

People, look East, the time is near
for 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.

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in time the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today,
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

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.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
Him Who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry 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: Trad. French carol, arr. Stephen Caracciolo (1962–)

FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH 9: 2 –4, 6–7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

All stand

HYMN

1. Hark! a herald voice is calling:
 ‘Christ is near,’ it seems to say;
 ‘Cast away the dreams of darkness,
 waken children of the day!’
2. Wakened by 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 now from heav’n;
 let us meet him with repentance,
 pray that we may be forgiv’n.
4. So when love comes forth in judgement,
 debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
 faithful may he find his servants
 watching till the dawn appear.

Words: Anon. (Latin, c.6th Century),
tr. Edward Caswall (1814–78) and others
Music: ‘Merton’, William Henry Monk (1823–89)

All sit

FIFTH LESSON

I THESSALONIANS 5: 1–11, 23, 24

We are all children of light

CAROL

E'EN SO LORD JESUS

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 adapt. Ruth Manz (1919–2008)
Music: Paul Manz (1919–2009)*

All sit

SIXTH LESSON

LUKE 12: 35–40

Let your lamps be lit in preparation for the Master's coming

All stand

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) alt.
Music: Philipp Nicolai (Melody), arr. J. S. Bach (1685–1750)*

All remain standing for the gospel

SEVENTH LESSON

JOHN 1: 1–16

The true light that lightens all people has come into the world

All sit

ANTHEM

BRICH AN, O SCHÖNES MORGENLICHT

*Brich an, o schönes Morgenlicht,
Und laß den Himmel tagen!
Du Hirtenvolk, erschrecke nicht,
Weil dir die Engel sagen,
Daß dieses schwache Knäbelein
Soll unser Trost und Freude sein,
Dazu den Satan zwingen
Und letztlich Friede bringen.*

Break forth, oh lovely morning light,
and let heaven dawn!
You shepherd-folk, do not fear,
because the angel tells you
that this weak little boy
shall be our comfort and joy,
subduing Satan as well
and bringing peace at last.

Words: Johann Rist (1607–1667) after Luke 2: 8–14,
tr. Pamela Dellal

Music: from *Weihnachts-Oratorium*, (BWV248), J. S. Bach

PRAYERS AND COLLECT

Vicar Let us pray.

All kneel or sit

Prayers are offered, ending with the collect for the Advent season:

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.

All: **Amen.**

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 souls of your servants.
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: **Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

CHORAL HYMN

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 your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice!...

3. O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice!...

4. O come, O come, thou Lord of might
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice!...

5. O come, O 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!...

*Words: from Cologne (c.17th century) based on the Advent Antiphons (c.9th century),
trans. T. A. Lacey (1853–1931), J. M. Neale and others
Music: 'Veni Emmanuel', melody adapted from a French Missal (c.15th century),
Thomas Helmore (1811–90), arr. John Rutter (1945–)*

All stand

HYMN

1. Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
 Hallelujah!
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,
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,
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!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Words: based on Revelation I, Charles Wesley (1707–88)
Music: 'Helmsley', adapted from an 18th century English melody

BLESSING

Vicar Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to receive 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, servers and clergy depart

RECESSIONAL

FANFARE ON 'HELMSLEY'

Brenda Portman (1980-)

*There will be a retiring collection for the work and mission of the parishes of
St Alban's, St Albans and St Mark's, Fitzroy.*

Please give generously to this outreach work of St George's.

Please join us for refreshments in the Hall after the service.



*Manuscript of the Great O Advent Antiphons
(c. 14th century)*

'O Come Quickly, Everlasting God Come Down'

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST GEORGE'S

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Children's and Families' Service

(children encouraged to come dressed as angels, shepherds, or kings)

11:30 p.m. Solemn Festival Eucharist ("Midnight Mass") of the Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist of the Nativity of our Lord.

First Sunday of Christmas (St Stephen's Day) December 26

9:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist

PARISH DIRECTORY

296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144



VICAR

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

Phone: 9822 4662 (h); 0408 505 646 (m)
Email: vicar@stgeorgesmalvern.org
Day off: Monday

ASSISTANT CURATE

The Reverend Brenda Williams

Phone: 0481 162 667
Email: curate@stgeorgesmalvern.org
Works: Saturday – Tuesday

HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST

The Reverend Matthew Dowsey

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Elizabeth-Anne Nixon

Email: music@stgeorgesmalvern.org

CHURCH OFFICE

Nisha O'Brien

Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Phone: 9822 3030

Email: office@stgeorgesmalvern.org

If visiting the office, please observe all protocols relating to Covid 19, including signing in and sanitizing your hands.

WARDENS

Jenny Weller-Newton 9570 7731
Judy Mallinson 0414 752 957
Ravi Renjen 0412 399 897

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.