



O Come,
O Come, Emmanuel!

*A Carol Service for
Advent Sunday*



Sunday 1st December 2024

6.30pm

Our service combines the great O Antiphons with a journey from darkness into light. The antiphons, or introductory sentences, are traditionally sung before the Magnificat at Evening Prayer from December 17th to 23rd. They contain a rich source of devotional imagery, filled with the Advent hope.

During the service, lights will be lit on the nave altar as the antiphons are sung. The candlelight reminds us that the Jesus to whom we look is the light of the world—a light that shines out of and into the darkness. As we move gradually towards the High Altar, where our final light is lit, our gaze is drawn to the east as we look for the sunrise.

This service is part of the long tradition in the English church of vivid Advent services, whose purpose is to help us as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and for that day when he will come again. Advent is a time of watching and waiting.

The congregation is asked to be silent as the organ is played before the service. In the service words to be said by all are printed in **bold type**.

Matin Responsory

The service begins with the choir singing the Matin Responsory from the South door. **Please remain seated** as the church lights are dimmed.

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.
I look from afar...

*Words: Advent Sunday Matins Responsory
Music: G-P. da Palestrina (1525-94)*

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able

Congregational candles are lit as we sing.

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 Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating man from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.

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

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.

**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.**

**O come, Desire of nations! show
 Thy kingly reign on earth below;
 Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
 Restore the ruin of our fall.**

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

*Words: Cologne 1710 based on the
 ancient Advent Antiphons
 translated T A Lacey (1853-1931) & Editors
 Tune: Veni Emmanuel (NEH 11)*

Blessing of the Lights

With expectant waiting we anticipate your coming. Come close to us, Lord, come very close.

Come, Alpha and Omega, who is from before the ages. Come, Son of Joseph and Son of Mary, who went down to Nazareth to be obedient to them.

Come, Morning Star, who named the stars. Come, carpenter from Nazareth, who knows the smell of planed wood. Come, Beloved Son of God,

who knows the heart of God. Come, Son of Man, who knows the hearts of God's people. Come, Lord of Life and Prince of Peace. Come, Dayspring and Rising Sun. Come, Wonderful Counsellor. Come Emmanuel, God with us; God very close to us.

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 you beckon us. And as we ask you to bless these lights, 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 be illumined by Christ who is our light. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

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

I – O SAPIENTIA

A candle is lit as a cantor sings the antiphon

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High, and reachest from one end to another mightily, and sweetly ordering all things: come and teach us the way of prudence.

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 24.1-9

The praise of Wisdom

Anthem

As the choir sings, incense is offered at the altar.

Zion, at thy shining gates,
Lo, the King of Glory waits,
Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet,
Strew thy palms before his feet.

Christ, for thee their triple light,
Faith and hope and love unite;
This the beacon we display
To proclaim thine advent day.

Come and give us peace within,
Loose us from the bands of sin,
Take away the galling weight,
Laid on us by Satan's hate.

Give us grace thy yoke to wear,
Give us strength thy cross to bear,
Make us thine in deed and word,
Thine in heart and life, O Lord.

So, when thou shalt come again,
Judge of angels and of men.
We with all thy saints shall sing
Alleluias to our King.

Words: English traditional

*Music: Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) arranged
by George Guest (1924-2002)*

Prayer

God of truth, whose Wisdom set her table and invited us to eat the bread and drink the wine of the kingdom: help us to lay aside all foolishness and to live and walk in the way of insight, that we may come to the eternal feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Vesper Responsory

Judah and Jerusalem fear not nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.

Stand ye still and see the salvation of the Lord. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.

Music: G-P. da Palestrina (1525-94)

Organ Voluntary

II – O ADONAI

A candle is lit as a cantor sings the antiphon

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law in Sinai: come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

Second Reading

Exodus 3.1-6

Moses at the burning bush

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able

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

*Charles Wesley (1708-1788)
Tune: Cross of Jesus (NEH 3)*

Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Please sit

III – O RADIX JESSE

A candle is lit as a cantor sings the antiphon

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people; at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the gentiles shall seek: come and deliver us, and tarry not.

Third Reading
Romans 15.7-13

All shall seek Christ

Anthem

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.

arranged Kerensa Briggs (b.1991)

Responsory

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
now and for ever. Amen.

IV – O CLAVIS DAVID

A candle is lit as a cantor sings the antiphon

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel,
that openest and no man shutteth; and shutteth and
no man openeth: come and bring the prisoner out of
the prison-house, and him that sitteth in darkness
and the shadow of death.

Fourth Reading
Revelation 3.7-13

I have set before you an open door

**but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn

**A collection will be taken during this hymn.
Please stand, if you are able.**

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

**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.**

**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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: Helmsley (NEH 9)

Descant: Christopher Robinson (b. 1936)

Blessing

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.
Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in
power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in
faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.
Amen.

VII – O EMMANUEL

Anthem

As a cantor sings the antiphon, the final candle is lit

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Salvation: come and save us, O Lord our God.

Seventh Reading

Isaiah 7.10-15

The Lord himself will give you a sign

Anthem

A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
It's fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from it's sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Herbert Howells (1892 - 1983)

Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers

Our prayers finish with the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as Christ himself has taught us.

**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**

*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.*

*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 heav'nly food.*

*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 pow'rs of hell may vanish,
as the darkness clears away.*

*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!"*

arr. Sir Stephen Cleobury (1948 - 2019)

Prayer

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.**

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

**For thou art our salvation, Lord
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed.**

**Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.**

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

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
Tr. John chandler (1808-1876)
Tune: Winchester New (NEH 12)*

Please sit

V – O ORIENS

A candle is lit as a cantor sings the antiphon

O Dayspring, Brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness: come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

Fifth Reading
Revelation 22.10-14, 16-21

I am the bright morning star

Anthem

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 one apple taken been
The apple taken been;
Ne had never Our Lady
A been Heaven's Queen.

Blesséd be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen
"Deo gratias!"

Peter Warlock (1894 - 1930)

Prayer

Eternal God, you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

VI – O REX GENTIUM

A candle is lit as a cantor sings the antiphon

O King of the Nations, and their Desire, the Cornerstone, who makest both one: come and save mankind whom thou formedst of clay.

Sixth Reading
Jeremiah 30.7-11a

Have no fear, for I will save you

Hymn

Please stand, if you are able

**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.**

**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.**

**Lands of the east, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn.
Then God whom you have longed to know,
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**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..**

**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 sons of earth be blest.!**

*Editors, based on C. E. Oakley (1832-65)
Tune: Little Cornard (NEH 7)*

Please sit