

The Temple Church

Sunday 30 November 2025

The First Sunday of Advent

CHORAL MATTINS, 11.15 a.m.

You are most welcome to this morning's service. We follow the service of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). Much of the service is sung by the Choir alone. We hope that you will be able to enjoy the opportunity this offers to let the music and words take your mind and your heart – with all the concerns you have for those you love and for our world – into the presence of God.

It is traditional here for the congregation to stand for the Venite and the Canticles; if it would be more comfortable for you to remain seated, please do.

The order of service is printed in the white service booklet, pp. 17-29. The new public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 599

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands.

INTROIT

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.
Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,
Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise.
Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

Music: Richard Shephard (1949-2021)
Words: Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

HYMN 47

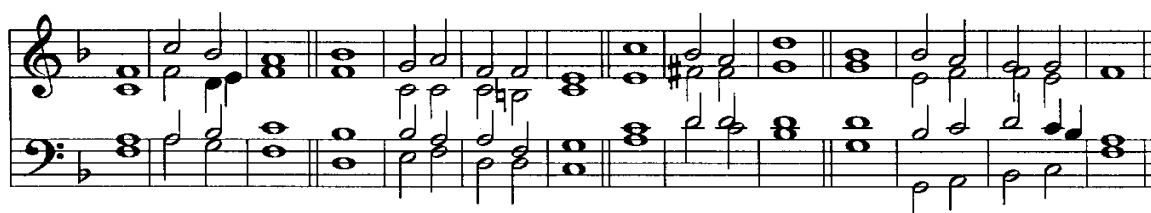
Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

All sit or kneel for the confession.

CONFESSION (*p. 17 of white booklet*)

All stand at "Glory be....." RESPONSES (Radcliffe)

All remain standing and sing: VENITE (PSALM 95. 1-7)



The first two verses and the Gloria are sung in unison.

- 1 O come let us | sing un-to the | Lord:
let us heartily rejoice in the | strength of | our sal- | vation.
- 2 Let us come before his | presence · with | thanksgiving:
and shew ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a | great | God:
and a | great King · a- | bove all | gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the | corners · of the | earth:
and the | strength of · the | hills is · his | also.
- 5 The sea is | his and · he | made it:
and his | hands pre- | pared the · dry | land.
- 6 O come let us worship and | fall | down:
and | kneel be-fore the | Lord our | Maker.

2nd Part

- 7 For he is the | Lord our | God:
and we are the people of his | pasture · and the | sheep of · his | hand.
Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son:
And | to the | Ho-ly | Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now and | ev-er | shall be:
World without | end. A- | — | men.

Music: Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901)

All remain standing.

The choir sings: PSALM 25. 1-9 (Turle)

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul; my God, I have put my trust in thee:
O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.
For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed:
but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.
Shew me thy ways, O Lord: and teach me thy paths.
Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me:
for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee hath been my hope all the day
long.

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies:
and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old.
O remember not the sins and offences of my youth:
but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy goodness.
Gracious and righteous is the Lord:
therefore will he teach sinners in the way.
Them that are meek shall he guide in judgement:
and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth:
unto such as keep his covenant, and his testimonies.
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.

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 2. 1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

All stand.

BENEDICITE (*Sumsion in B flat*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

All stand. CANTICLE OF ZACHARIAH (*James MacMillan*)

In the tradition of the Temple Church, we face east to say together:

THE CREED (*p. 24 of white booklet*)

All sit or kneel at 'Let us pray...' THE RESPONSES (*Radcliffe*)

All sit or kneel. THE COLLECTS

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.

THE ANTHEM

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.1539-1623)

Words: from Isaiah 45. 8

THE PRAYERS

All stand.

HYMN 54
Come, thou long expected Jesus

All sit.

THE SERMON
The Master

All stand.

HYMN 51
Lo, he comes with clouds descending

THE BLESSING

All are invited to sit after the departure of the Clergy for

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

There will be a retiring collection. It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly fill in a Gift Aid envelope and drop it into a collection-basket as you leave, stating the amount of your cash or contactless gift. If you would prefer to donate online kindly scan the QR code below.



SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be contacted confidentially at safeguarding@templechurch.com or 020 7427 5650.

**We ask your prayers for those dear to us in this House, and at this time
especially for the following:**

BAPTISM

Farran Edward Tullo-Judkins
Kit Alexander Abercromby Tussaud

ANNIVERSARIES OF MARRIAGE

Alexander Bagwell and Alexandra Stone
Matthew and Nicola Barnes
Anthony and Terina Corda
Ben Dempster and Britta Brownlee
Nicholas and Sally Forwood
Anthony and Nell Gamble
Richard and Laura Hayward
Francis and Jessica Ijeh
Alan and Grace Karthikesalingham
Michael and Alexandra Payne
James and Emma Tussaud
Anthony and Sarah Walker
David and Victoria Ward
Jerram and Eleanor White

THE DEPARTED

Sheila Cameron
Anthony Hacking
Charles Judge
Barlomiej (Bartek) Kurcz
Gerard Ryan
Peter Wilson

YEAR'S MIND

Fanny Arnold-Baker
Dorene Borrie
Joseph Butler-Sloss
Terence Coghlan
Geoffrey Farmiloe
Ian (Roderick) Fletcher
Jane Green
George Newman
Clare Marx
Penny Norton
Graeme Williams

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

TEMPLE WINTER FESTIVAL

Monday 1-Friday 5 December

A week of wonderful choral music in preparation for Christmas.

For full details of the whole festival and to book: www.templemusic.org

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: Darkness to Light

Wednesday 3 December, 6.00pm

The Temple Church Choir

Tickets not required.

BACH: CHRISTMAS ORATORIO, BWV248

Cantatas I-III and VI

Thursday 4 December, 7.30pm

The Bar Choral Society

Tickets required. For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

CONCERT: What sweeter music

Friday 5 December, 6.00pm

Temple Singers

Tickets required. For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 7 December, 11.15am

The Temple Church Choir

This service will be sung again on Thursday 11 December and Sunday 14 December

Booking required via Eventbrite for Sunday 14 December service only.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 11 December, 6.00pm

The Temple Church Choir

(Repeat of Sunday 7 December service).

Tickets not required.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14 December, 11.15am

The Temple Church Choir

(Repeat of Sunday 7 December service)

Booking required via Eventbrite.

Please note this carol service is now fully booked.

NATIVITY PLAY FOR CHILDREN

Sunday 14 December, 3.30pm

Tickets not required.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Monday 15 December, 6.00pm

Temple Singers

Tickets not required.

CAROLS FOR PRO BONO

Tuesday 16 December, 6.15pm

Collegium Musicum of London

A charity event supporting the work of Advocate and LawWorks.

Tickets required. For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

“BAH, HUMBUG?” – CERTAINLY NOT!
CAROLS AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Wednesday 17 December, 6.00pm

Temple Singers

Tickets are not required.

BRITTEN: A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Thursday 18 December, 7.00pm

The Temple Church Choristers

Tickets required. For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org
