



ST. PETER  
ST. PAUL  
BROMLEY

# ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

30<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
6.30pm

## **Welcome to our service for Advent**

The season of Advent is a time of watchful expectation of Christ's coming (adventus, in Latin, means 'coming'). We prepare to celebrate the incarnation, when Christ was born of the Virgin in humility, but we also expect the Second Coming, when Christ will come in triumph to judge the world.

### **For Reflection: Advent Sunday**

*Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out  
With lighted lamps and garlands round about  
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.  
It may be at the midnight, black as pitch,  
Earth shall cast up her poor, cast up her rich.  
It may be at the crowing of the cock  
Earth shall upheave her depth, uproot her rock.  
For lo, the Bridegroom fetcheth home the Bride:  
His Hands are Hands she knows, she knows His Side.  
Like pure Rebekah at the appointed place,  
Veiled, she unveils her face to meet His Face.  
Like great Queen Esther in her triumphing,  
She triumphs in the Presence of her King.  
His Eyes are as a Dove's, and she's Dove-eyed;  
He knows His lovely mirror, sister, Bride.  
He speaks with Dove-voice of exceeding love,  
And she with love-voice of an answering Dove.  
Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go we out  
With lamps ablaze and garlands round about  
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.

*Everyone is welcomed to the service.*

*An organ voluntary sounds as the lights are extinguished and darkness envelops the church.*

*The Rorate Coeli (The Advent prose) is sung by the choir*

Pour down, O heavens, from above,  
And let the skies rain down righteousness.  
Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord,  
And remember not our sins for ever.  
Your holy cities have become a desert,  
Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation;  
Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.  
We have sinned and become like one who is unclean;  
We have all withered like a leaf,  
And our iniquities like the wind have swept us away.  
You have hidden your face from us,  
And abandoned us to our iniquities.  
You are my witnesses, says the Lord,  
And my servant whom I have chosen,  
That you may know me and believe me.  
I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver;  
What my hand holds, none can snatch away.  
Comfort my people, comfort them;  
My salvation shall not be delayed.  
I have swept your offences away like a cloud;  
Fear not, for I will save you.  
I am the Lord your God,  
The Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.

*Arranged by Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)*

*Please stand to sing our first **hymn**  
During which the choir process up the church and our candles are slowly lit*

*v1 Choir*

Of the Father's heart begotten  
ere the world from chaos rose,  
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,  
all that is and hath been flows;  
he is Omega, of all things  
yet to come the mystic Close,  
evermore and evermore.

*v2 All*

**By his word was all created;  
he commanded and 'twas done;  
earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
universe of three in one,  
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
all that breathes beneath the sun,  
evermore and evermore.**

**He assumed this mortal body,  
frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
that the race from dust created  
might not perish utterly,  
which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
in the depths of hell to lie,  
evermore and evermore.**

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
when the Maid the curse retrieved,  
brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
by the Holy Ghost conceived,  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,**

in her loving arms received,  
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil  
sang in ages long gone by;  
this is he of old revealèd  
in the page of prophecy;  
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!  
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
let your joyous anthems ring,  
every tongue his name confessing,  
countless voices answering,  
evermore and evermore.

*Corde natus ex parentis*  
*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–c.413)*  
*translated by Roby Furley Davis (1866–1937)*

*Please sit for*

## **The Bidding Prayer**

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, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over. And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

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,  
In 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.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting.  
**Amen**

**Bible Reading**  
Genesis 3.8-15, 17-19

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

**Anthem**

This is the truth sent from above  
*Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love,  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run  
That he would redeem us by his Son

And at that season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear;  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

**Bible Reading**  
Isaiah 52:1-12

Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion! Put on your  
beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for the  
uncircumcised and the unclean shall enter you no more.

Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem;  
loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter Zion!  
For thus says the Lord: You were sold for nothing, and you shall  
be redeemed without money. For thus says the Lord God: Long  
ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens;  
the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause. Now  
therefore, what am I doing here, says the Lord, seeing that my  
people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says  
the Lord, and continually, all day long, my name is  
despised. Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore  
on that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.  
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the  
messenger who announces peace, who brings good news,  
who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God  
reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they  
sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to  
Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed  
Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of  
all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the  
salvation of our God. Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch  
no unclean thing; go out from the midst of it, purify  
yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord. For you shall  
not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight; for  
the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your  
rearguard.

## **Anthem**

How Beautiful upon the mountains  
*John Stainer (1840-1901)*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that  
bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that publisheth  
salvation; that saith unto Zion, 'Thy God reigneth!'

*Please stand to sing a **hymn***

Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,  
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!  
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?  
Is it the music of his people's prayer?

Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices  
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;  
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,  
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!

This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?  
This shall he do, and can we still despair?  
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,  
cast at his feet the burden of our care.

Through life and death, through sorrow and through  
sinning,  
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:  
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,  
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

*Frederic W. H. Myers (1843-1901)*

*Please sit for a **Bible Reading***  
Baruch 4.36-5.9

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem, see the joy that is coming  
to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you  
sent away; are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word  
of the Holy One, in the glory of God. Take off the garment of  
your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, put on for ever the  
beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the  
righteousness that comes from God; on your head the diadem

of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

## **Anthem**

People Look East

*Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)*

*arr. Barry Ferguson (b.1942)*

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.  
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.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, 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  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
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.

**Bible Reading**  
Luke 1:26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a

virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

## **Anthem**

Gabriel’s Message

*Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

*arr. David. Willcocks (1919-2015)*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
" All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
" To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
" my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,

and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say--  
" Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

*Please stand to sing a **hymn***

**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 (1707–1788)*

*Please sit for a **Bible Reading***  
Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock

in the strength of the Lord, the majesty of the name of  
the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be  
great the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

### **Anthem**

How lovely are the messengers  
*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of  
peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,  
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

*Please stand to sing a hymn*

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings from the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

*Charles Coffin (1676–1749)  
translated by John Chandler (1806–1876)*

*Please sit for a **Bible Reading**  
Revelation 22:12–17, 20–21*

‘See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practises falsehood. ‘It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.’ The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

### **Anthem**

E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come  
*Paul Manz (1919-2009)*

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!

*Please stand to sing a hymn*

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

**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.**

**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:  
Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone**

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

*John Cennick (1718–1755)*

## **The Collect**

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.**

## **The Blessing**

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Rest and remain upon you this day.  
**Amen**

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.  
**Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

## **Organ Voluntary**

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme *BWV 645*  
*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Bromley Parish Church

# Christmas Services

30TH NOVEMBER 6:30PM

Advent Carols

Everyone is Welcome!

6TH AND 14TH DECEMBER 12PM-5PM

Christmas Tree Festival

7TH DECEMBER 6:30PM

Light in the Darkness - a service  
for you when Christmas is tough

14TH DECEMBER 4:00PM

Carols & Cocoa - come & choose your  
favourite to sing!

20TH DECEMBER 6:00PM

Carols by Candlelight

21ST DECEMBER 4:00PM

Christingle

CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00PM

Nativity Service

CHRISTMAS EVE 11:30PM

Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30AM

Christmas Day Communion

