

The Parish Church of All Saints
Kingston upon Thames



Advent
Carol Service

28th November 2004

Please stand as the lights in the church are extinguished and remain standing until the first lesson. After that, sit for the lessons and carols and stand for the hymns.

Advent Prose

Choir Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
 and let the skies pour down righteousness:
 let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.

Be not very angry, O Lord, neither remember our iniquity for ever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and has consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
and there is nothing that can deliver out of my hand.

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.

Matin Responsory

Choir 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 ledest 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 translated from an early mediæval Advent Sunday Responsory
Music adapted from a Magnificat by Palestrina*

First Lesson

Jeremiah looks to the redemption of Israel and Judah.
Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Hymn O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
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.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Words based on the ancient Advent Antiphons.
Melody adapted from a French Missal by Thomas Helmore (1811-90)*

Second Lesson

The day of the Lord is foretold. *Isaiah 13: 6-11*

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.

Then after this 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in paradise,
There to remain from evil free,
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin;
Ruined themselves, both you and me
And all of their posterity.

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.

Words: Herefordshire Carol. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Third lesson

The Prophet Elijah will return. *Malachi 3: 1-4, 4: 5-6*

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.

Words and Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907). Translated: W Bartholomew

Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesus, Redeemer, save us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst save our lost and guilty race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to eventide;
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the spotless Victim all divine.

At thy great Name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.

To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our Judge in that tremendous day,
ward off, while yet we dwell below,
the weapons of our crafty foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Words: Latin, 6th century, trans. J M Neale. Music: Malcolm Archer (b.1952)

Fourth Lesson

The birth of John the Baptist is foretold. *Luke 1: 5-17*

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of 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.

All praise, eternal Son to thee
Whose advent doth thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for evermore.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749), translated John Chandler (1808-76)
Music: Malcolm Archer (b.1952)

Fifth Lesson

John preaches repentance. *Mark 1: 4-8*

Hymn 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!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

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;

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.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run.

Words: Latin, Tr E Caswall (1814-78) Tune: Merton, by W H Monk (1823-89)

Sixth Lesson

Be awake for the coming of Christ. *Romans 13: 11-14*

Hymn *(The organ plays the whole chorale, then the choir sings verse one. All sing verse two)*

Choir Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling
The watchmen's cry the air is filling:
'Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying:
The hour has come!' we hear them saying;
'Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom now is nigh:
Stand forth! your lamps raise high!
Halleluja!
In bright array
This nuptial day
Go forth and meet him in the way!

All Sion hears the watchmen singing,
Her heart for joy within her springing;
She wakes, and eagerly attends;
See her Friend, from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light shines clear, her star ascends.
Appear, thou precious crown!
God's Son, to earth come down!
Sing 'Hosanna!'
Now rise we all
To that glad hall
Where to thy feast thou dost us call.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), translated F C Burkitt (1864-1935)
Tune 'Wachet Auf' by Nicolai, harmony by J S Bach

Seventh Lesson

The birth of Christ is announced. *Luke 1: 26-38a*

I sing of a maiden
That is makeless.
King of all kinges
To her son she ches.

He came all so stille
There his mother was,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the grass.

He came all so stille
To his mother's bower,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the flower.

Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
Goddess mother be.

Words: 15th Centurey. Music: Sir Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989)

Alma Redemptoris Mater,
quae pervia caeli porta manes,
et stella maris, succurre cadenti,
surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti,
natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem,
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore,
sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

*Loving mother of the Redeemer,
that passage to heaven, gate of the morning,
and star of the sea, assist the fallen,
lift up, [you] who cure, the people: you who bore
to the wonderment of nature, your holy Creator,
Virgin before and after, who received from Gabriel
that joyful greeting, have mercy on us sinners.*

Words: Vesper Antiphon. Music: Anon (Mediaval)

Hymn Thy Kingdom come! On bended knee
The passing ages pray;
And faithful souls have yearned to see
On earth that Kingdom's day:

But the slow watches of the night
Not less to God belong;
And for the everlasting right
The silent stars are strong.

And lo, already on the hills
The flags of dawn appear;
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
Proclaim the day is near:

The day in whose clear-shining light
All wrong shall stand revealed,
When justice shall be throned in might,
And every hurt be healed;

When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
Shall walk the earth abroad:
The day of perfect righteousness,
The promised day of God.

Words: Frederick Hosmer 1840-1929. Tune: 'Irish'

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 known 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!

Words: S Baring-Gould. Music: Basque Carol, arr. Edgar Pettman

Eighth Lesson

Signs of the coming of the Kingdom. *Mark 13: 24-37*

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.

Old German Melody, arranged by George Guest

Kneel or sit for a period of silent prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer:

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

Priest We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord:
People In the midst of thy temple.

Collect for Advent Sunday

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.

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.

Vesper Responsory

Choir Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Music: adapted from Palestrina

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

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.

Words: Isaiah 52, Romans 10. Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Hymn 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'

