



A CAROL SERVICE FOR ADVENT

Sunday 25 November 2018

The Sunday Next Before Advent

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

NRSV John 1: 1-5

*Members of the congregation are asked
to take particular care with the candles*

*Please ensure that all electronic devices,
including cameras, are switched off*

All remain seated in silence as the lights are dimmed

Prelude on Es ist ein' Ros', Op. 122 No. 8

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

*All stand as the lights are switched off
at the end of the organ music*

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: ‘Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?’ 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: Early medieval Roman rite
(Matins Responsory for the First Sunday of Advent)
Music: Richard Marlow (1939–2013)

All remain standing

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1: 1–5, read by the Master

God creates light, and separates it from darkness

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A candle is lit and the light is passed from person to person

A Chaplain says

God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven
to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs,
and for seasons, and for days, and years.

CHOIR

Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
regard thy servants when they call.

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.

Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening-tide;
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

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.

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.

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: Anon. 7th century

Music: 'Conditor alme siderum' (Mode iv)

Remain standing

HYMN

**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.**

**By his word was all created;
he commanded and was 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.**

**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.**

Words: Prudentius (348–413) trans. R.F. Davis (1866–1937)

Music: melody from 'Pie Cantiones' (1582) arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

Remain standing

THE BIDDING PRAYER

The Dean of Chapel says

Beloved in Christ, as we prepare this Advent to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us hear again in the words of the Scriptures the story of God's loving purpose in our creation and redemption. Let us bring to mind the goodness of God in calling the creation into his light; his mercy in Christ Jesus in drawing us from the darkness of sin; and his grace to us and to all sinners in summoning us by his Holy Spirit, as the dawn of his kingdom breaks upon us.

But first let us pray for ourselves and all people, acknowledging before God our sins and the sins of the world, bringing before him our needs and the needs of those for whom our Lord Jesus Christ had a special care, when in great humility he came to live amongst us: the poor, the bereaved, the sick, and the outcast. As we look for the dawning of the light of God's rule on earth, let us commend ourselves and the world to the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ and to the power of his redeeming Spirit, in the words he himself taught us to say:

**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.**

Remain standing

HYMN

**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed,
the promised fruit to man displayed.**

**The virgin womb that burden gained
with virgin honour all sustained;
the banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.**

**Forth from his chamber goeth he,
that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one,
rejoicing now his course to run.**

**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 of Milan (340–397)

Music: Michael Praetorius (1571–1621) arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1–9, read by a Member of Staff

The Prophet foretells the coming of God's kingdom

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
that he is God in persons three,
Pari forma.

The Angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo:
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
and follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

Words: from a 15th-century carol roll, now in the College Library
Music: Anon. arr. John Stevens (1921–2002)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in
mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at
the hour of our death. Amen.*

Words: Luke 1 vv. 28, 42
Music: Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (b. 1963)

All stand

HYMN

**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 Branch of Jesse! draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from the dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell, thy people save.**

**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, 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, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from that high mountain clothed with awe,
gavest thy folk the elder law.**

Words: Anon. trans. Thomas Alexander Lacey (1853–1931)
Music: adapt. from a French Missal by Thomas Helmore (1811–90)
arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

All sit

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1: 26–38, read by a Graduate

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she is to bear a son, Jesus

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster exspectatio Gentium, et
Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.

*O Emmanuel, our King and lawgiver, the hope of nations and
their Saviour: come and save us, O Lord our God.*

Words: O Antiphon from the Advent Liturgy
Music: Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum. Alleluia.

*O great mystery and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord. Alleluia!*

Words: Responsory for the Matins of Christmas
Music: Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

THE FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 3: 1–12, read by an Undergraduate

John the Baptist announces the coming of Christ

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: and think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand

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 Christian breast,
and furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our heart prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**

**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 thy 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 Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749)
trans. John Chandler (1806–76)

Music: adapt. from a chorale in 'Musicalisches Hand-Buch' (Hamburg 1690)
descant Philip Ledger (1937–2012)

All sit

THE FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 25: 1–13, read by a Fellow

The Parable of the wise and foolish Virgins

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

‘Wachet auf!’ ruft uns die Stimme
der Wächter, sehr hoch auf der Zinne;
‘Wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!’
Mitternacht heisst diese Stunde;
sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:
‘Wo seid ihr, klugen Jungfrauen?
Wohl auf, der Bräut’gam kommt;
steht auf, die Lampen nehmt!
Halleluja!
Macht euch bereit zu der Hochzeit.
Ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn!’

*‘Wake, O wake!’ – with tidings thrilling
the watchman’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!
Alleluia.
In bright array, this nuptial day,
go forth and meet him in the way!’*

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)
trans. Francis Crawford Birkitt (1864–1935)
Music: Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)
arr. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

THE SIXTH LESSON

from The Revelation of St John the Divine, chapters 21–2
read by a Chaplain

*The Seer sees the New Jerusalem
and hears the Church's plea for her Lord's return*

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And he said unto me, Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

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 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, adapted Ruth Manz (1919–2008)

Music: Paul Manz (1919–2009)

All stand for the 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 thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)

Music: John Stainer (1840–1901)

All sit

CHOIR

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
the night is light about me. Amen.

Words: Amos 5 v. 8; Psalm 139 v. 12
Music: Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

All stand

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

The Dean of Chapel says

Let us pray.

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

Make us, we beseech thee, O Lord, our God, watchful and
heedful in awaiting the coming of thy Son, Christ our Lord;
that when he shall come and knock, he may find us not sleeping
in our sins, but awake, and rejoicing in his praises.

Amen.

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 for ever.

Amen.

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of his spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Remain standing for the **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:
O come quickly! Alleluia! Come, Lord, come! Amen.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)
Music: Thomas Olivers (1725–99), descants Max Pappenheim (b. 1983)

All remain standing as the Choir and Clergy process to the Ante-Chapel

CHOIR

Puer natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis: cuius imperium super humerum eius: et vocabitur nomen eius, magni consilii Angelus.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor.

Words: Introit for the Third Mass of Christmas Day (Isaiah 9 v. 6)

Music: Plainsong

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, O beautiful morning light,
and let the heaven dawn!
Be not afraid, O shepherd folk,
for the angel is telling you
that this helpless little boy
will be our comfort and joy,
here for to conquer Satan
and bring us peace at last!*

Words: Johann von Rist (1607–67)

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The Master and Fellows leave at the start of the organ voluntary

Fantasia and Fugue in g, BWV 542

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

*A retiring collection will be taken at the doors of the Ante-Chapel
in aid of Trinity in Camberwell*