



*A Solemn Service
of
Lessons & Carols
for
Advent Sunday*

**The Church of
St John the Evangelist
Gordon**

Rector: Rev'd Fr Robert Happer

Sunday, 28 November 2021 at 7.00pm

with

The Cathedral Singers

Director Jim Abraham

and

Acting Director of Music Nicola Chau

Advent Carols

Traditionally, the Church prepares for celebrating the coming of Christ during the season of Advent. The word 'advent' comes from the Latin adventus which, being translated, means 'coming'. It in turn comes from the Greek parousia which refers to the second coming of Christ.

The ancient people of God, the Jews, looked forward to the coming of a new order in the Kingdom of God. The early Christian Church saw this fulfilled in the coming of Christ, but looked forward, as we do, to a second coming and the final consummation of all; and so we ever pray, 'Thy Kingdom come!' Thus, in Advent we anticipate two comings.

The first coming of Christ is foretold by the prophets in the readings at Advent Carols as we trace salvation history. At the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (on the last Sunday of Advent, the Sunday next before Christmas, at 7.30pm) we hear of Christ's first coming in his nativity at Bethlehem. The second coming we long for still.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Order of Service

Advent Carols

Prelude: Organ

At 6.55pm, before the Procession, the acolytes light the congregation's candles and the church lights are extinguished for the candlelight procession.

Introit: *Matin Responsory* (adapted from Palestrina)

Sung by The Cathedral Singers from the great west door

I look from afar: And lo, I see the pow'r 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: And lo I see the pow'r of God coming and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet them and say:

Tell us art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Processional Hymn: *O Come Immanuel*

Sung by all standing, by candlelight

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
*Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**2. 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.**

**3. 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.**

**4. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**5. 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.**

Latin, twelfth century;

trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1851

Remain standing.

The Congregation standing and holding their candles, shall be bidden to Prayer in these words:

The Bidding Prayer:

Rector: Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

Rector: But first, let us pray for the world God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

All: **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.**

Candles are extinguished, the Church lights are turned on and all sit.

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-8

Read by Sarah Pillai

All stand.

Hymn: 3 Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Tune ii)

**1. 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.**

**2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), 1744

All sit.

Second Lesson: Jeremiah 23:5-6

Read by Simon Lennon

Carol: *Remember O thou man* (Ravenscroft)

The Cathedral Singers

*Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man,
Remember, O thou man, Thy time is spent:
Remember O thou man, How thou art dead and gone,
And I did what I can: Therefore repent!*

*Remember Adam's fall, O thou man, O thou man,
Remember Adam's fall, From heaven to hell!
Remember Adam's fall, How we were condemnèd all
In hell perpetual, therefore to dwell.*

*Remember God's goodnesse, O thou man, O thou man,
Remember God's goodnesse, And his promise made!
Remember God's goodnesse How he sent his Sonne, doubtlesse,
Our sinnes for to redresse: Be not afraid.*

Third Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-10

Read by Catherine Barker

All stand to sing the hymn.

Hymn: 12 *On Jordan's Bank*

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

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

**3. 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.**

**4. 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.**

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

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

Trans. John Chandler (1808-76)

All sit.

Fourth Lesson: Haggai 2:6-9

Read by Rob Shaw

Carol: *Wachet Auf*

The Cathedral Singers

1. Chorale Prelude on 'Wachet Auf' (J.S. Bach) - organ
2. Chorale 'Wachet Auf' (trad. Lutheran, harmony by Mendelssohn)

*Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling
the watchmen all the air are 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 comes in sight,
raise high your torches bright!
Alleluia! The wedding song
swells long and strong:
go forth and join the festal throng.*

*Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)
trans. F.C. Burkitt (1864-1935)*

All stand to sing the hymn.

Hymn: 6 *Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes*

**1. HARK the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.**

**2. He comes the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

**3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
Enrich the humble poor.**

**4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy belovèd name.**

Philip Doddridge (1702-51)

All sit.

Fifth Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-6

Read by Jennifer Lum

All stand to sing the hymn.

Hymn: 5 *Hark! a herald voice is calling*

**1. 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!'**

2. **Startled at the solemn warning
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

3. **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.**

4. **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.**

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

From the Latin

Trans. E. Caswall (1814-1878)

The congregation sits.

Sixth Lesson: St Luke 1:26-35, 38

Read by Fr Ernest Chau

Carol: *Gabriel's Message*

The Cathedral Singers

1. *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!*

2. *"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!*

3. *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!*

4. *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!*

*Basque Traditional Carol (arr. Pettman);
trans. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

All stand for the hymn during which a collection may be taken.

Hymn: *Christ is coming! Let creation*

**1. Christ is coming! Let creation
From her groans and travail cease;
Let the glorious proclamation
Hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, thou blessèd Prince of Peace.**

**2. Earth can now but tell the story
Of thy bitter Cross and pain;
She shall yet behold the glory,
When thou comest back to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the strain.**

**3. Long thine exiles have been pining,
Far from rest, and home, and thee:
But, in heavenly vestures shining,
They their loving Lord shall see:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Haste the joyous jubilee.**

4. With that blessed hope before us,
Let no harp remain unstrung;
Let the mighty advent chorus
Onward roll from tongue to tongue:
'Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!'

John Ross MacDuff (1818-95)

The congregation sits.

Anthem: *This is the record of John*
(Words : John 1-10, Music : Orlando Gibbons)

The Cathedral Singers

This is the record of John. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him "Who art thou?" And he confessed and denied not and said plainly "I am not the Christ".

And they asked him "What art thou then? Art thou Elias?" and he said "I am not" "Art thou the prophet?" and he answered "No".

Then said they unto him. "What art thou that we may give an answer unto them that sent us? What sayest thou for thyself? And he said "I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

All stand to sing the Gospel Alleluia. All then turn to face the Gospeller as they process.

Gospel Alleluia

Brett McKern, ©2010

Al - le - lu - - - ia, al - le - lu - - -

ia, al - le - lu - - - - - ia.

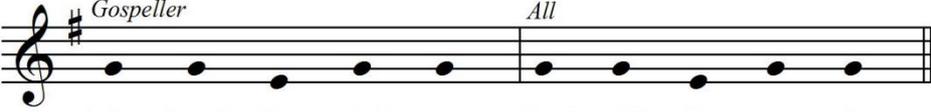
Alleluia verse:

Cantor Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight | his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Seventh Lesson: St Mark 1:1-15

Read by the Rector, Fr Robert Happer

Gospeller *All*



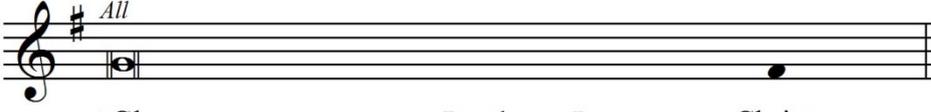
The Lord by with you. And with thy spi - rit.

Gospeller



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All



+Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospeller

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

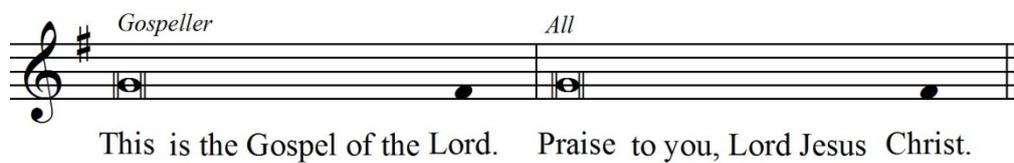
John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

And he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”



The congregation returns to facing east, the Choir inwards after the Gospel Recession, and all remain standing.

Vesper Responsory

Sung by The Cathedral Singers

Cantor Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;

Choir Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Cantor Stand still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

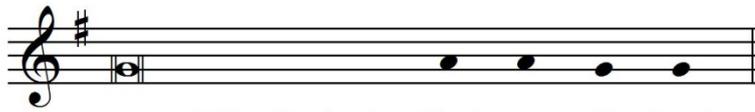
Choir Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Versicle & Response

Cantor



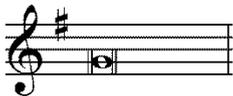
We wait for thy loving kind-ness, O Lord.

People respond (all the congregation)



In the midst of thy tem - ple.

Collect for Advent



Rector Let us pray.

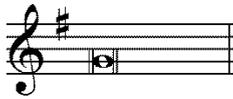
Rector O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of your coming: grant that we, who with joy receive your only begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even your Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. A

All



A-men.

The Blessing



Rector Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;

help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with always.

All



Recessional Hymn: 9 *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.**

**2. 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.**

**3. 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!**

**4. 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!**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Organ Postlude

Christmas 2021 at St John's

19 December	7.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols <i>St John's Parish Choir</i> <i>St John's 8am Singers</i> <i>The Cathedral Singers</i>
24 December	5pm	Children's Eucharist (Family Eucharist for Christmas)
24 December	11pm	Midnight Mass (Sung Eucharist)
25 December	8.00am	Choral Eucharist (BCP)
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day

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Gospel Alleluia from Missa Sancti Joannis by Brett McKern.

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