



**YORK
MINSTER**

LOOKING FOR THE LIGHT

**A Sequence of Music and Readings
for Advent Sunday**

**29 November 2020
at 4.00 pm**

In the Middle Ages, the Church kept Advent as a season of great solemnity—a time in which to meditate upon the ultimate issues of death, judgement, hell and heaven. Advent, though, was also a time of great rejoicing. For Christ would come, not only as Judge, but also as Saviour, and would usher in the Kingdom of God. Advent provided a vivid preparation for Christmas. Processions from west to east, and the use of lights, spoke of the Church's hope in the coming of Christ—the Light of the world—to banish sin and darkness. Antiphons were sung, calling upon God to deliver his people, and readings from the Old Testament were seen as pointing to the fulfilment of God's purposes in Jesus.

This Service aims to recapture something of that Advent longing and hope.

Organ music before the service

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach

Preparation

The choir sings the ADVENT RESPONSORY:

*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 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 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?

Words Matins of the First Sunday in Advent in the Sarum Breviary

Music G P da Palestrina (1525–94) adapted by David Willcocks (1919–2015)

The Dean says:

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.

The grace and peace of God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

My brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

Everyone prays silently, after which the Dean draws the prayers together in the Collect of 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.

Please sit.

The Word of God

The choir sings:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 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. | 3. 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. |
| 2. 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. | 4. 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. |
| 5. 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. | |

Words English traditional carol

Music arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

First Reading

God creates the light and separates it from the darkness.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

GENESIS 1.1–5

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

Hosanna to the son of David.
Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, thou that sittest in the highest heavens.
Hosanna in excelsis Deo.

Words Matthew 21, Luke 19 ♦ *Music* Thomas Weelkes (c. 1574–1623)

Second Reading

The prophet Isaiah proclaims to the people of Israel that God will be their light.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

ISAIAH 60.1–5a

Thanks be to God.

Music for organ

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms (1833–97)

Third Reading

The prophet Isaiah foretells the birth of God's Messiah, light of the world and Prince of Peace.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ISAIAH 9.2,3,6,7

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

Vigilate, nescitis enim quando dominus domus veniat,
sero, an media nocte, an galli cantu, an mane.
Vigilate ergo, ne, cum venerit repente, inveniat vos dormientes.
Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico; Vigilate.

*Watch, therefore; for you know not when the master of the house will come,
at evening, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning.
Watch, therefore, lest coming suddenly he finds you sleeping.
And what I say unto you I say to all, Watch.*

Words Mark 13.35–37 ♦ Music William Byrd (1540–1623) from Cantiones Sacrae (1589)

Fourth Reading

St Paul encourages the church to stay awake and live as children of light.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

1 THESSALONIANS 5.1–11, 23, 24

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

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.

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.

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.

Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
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.

Words Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965) ♦ *Music* Traditional Besançon carol

Fifth Reading

The City of God will be as a light set upon a hill and a place of salvation and praise.

Arise, shine out, for your light has come, ♦
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

Though night still covers the earth, ♦
and darkness the peoples;

Above you the Holy One arises, ♦
and above you God's glory appears.

The nations will come to your light, ♦
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Your gates will lie open continually, ♦
shut neither by day nor by night.

The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land, ♦
or ruin and devastation within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, ♦
and your gates, Praise.

No more will the sun give you daylight, ♦
nor moonlight shine upon you;

But the Lord will be your everlasting light, ♦
your God will be your splendour.

For you shall be called the city of God, ♦
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.

A SONG OF THE NEW JERUSALEM *from* ISAIAH 60.1-3,11a,18,19,14b

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

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, 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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
who madest all in earth and sky,
creating man from dust and clay:
to us reveal salvation's way.

Rejoice! . . .

O come, Desire of nations! show
thy kingly reign on earth below;
thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
restore the ruin of our fall.

Rejoice! . . .

Words German trans. T A Lacey from the ancient Advent antiphons

Music Traditional chant melody

Sixth Reading

God sent his Son so that the world might be saved through him and live in the light of his love.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

JOHN 3.16-21

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings:

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

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

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

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

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

Words after Isaiah, Officia Propria, Paris (1673) ♦ Music Sarum Chant

Address

Canon Michael Smith, Pastor

Music for Reflection

The organist improvises on the hymn 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending.'

The Prayers

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May God our Father forgive us our sins,
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom
where dust and ashes have no dominion.
Amen.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Awaiting his coming in glory,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

The choir sings:

Audivi vocem de coelo venientem:
oleum recondite in vasis vestris, dum sponsus advenerit.
Media nocte clamor factus est: ecce sponsus venit.

*I heard a voice from heaven:
take oil in your vessels while the bridegroom is coming.
At midnight a cry was made: behold the bridegroom cometh.*

Words Respond for Matins on All Saints' Day
Music Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–85)

The Dismissal

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light.

Come, O Lord, comfort the soul of your servant.
Even so, Lord, come.

O Lord Jesus Christ, come
at evening time, with light,

and in the morning, with your glory,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

Blessing

May God the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach

Some material in this service is taken from *Common Worship: Daily Prayer*, copyright © 2005 The Archbishops' Council and from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, copyright © 2006 The Archbishops' Council, and is used by permission.

This compilation is copyright © 2020 The Chapter of York.