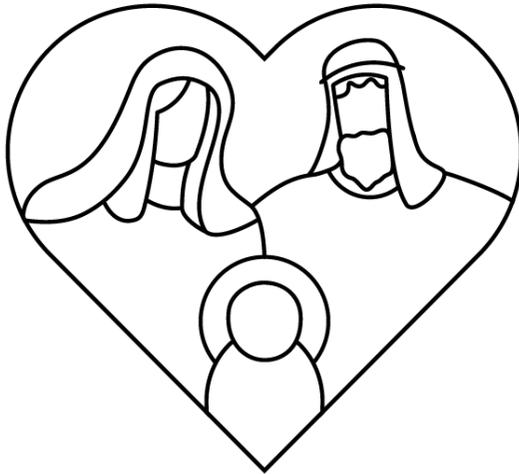


At the heart of Christmas



Advent
Carol Service
2021

Welcome

Welcome to All Saints, especially if you are visiting our church for the first time. Our service tonight is full of expectation and hope, symbolised by the light of many candles. The readings and carols we shall hear anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ in the words of the ancient Prophets, and culminate in Mary's response to the news of the angel that she is to bear God's Son, and John the Baptist's proclamation of the coming of Jesus.

The service is punctuated by the Great 'O' Antiphons. These were written in the 8th century to be used in the period before Christmas. The gentle flow of the plainsong and the words themselves build an increasing sense of peace and holiness as the service moves towards its climax.

Music before the service

Advent Music for Organ

Entrance

The choir sings this introit, the congregation remaining seated,

Christus vincit! Christus regnat!

Christus imperat!

Exaudi, Christe Ecclesiae sanctae Dei

supra regnorum fines neccenti animas

Salus perpetua!

Christus vincit...

Christ conquers, Christ reigns,

Christ rules!

Listen, Christ, to the holy church of God,

uniting souls across the divisions of nations:

perpetual peace!

Christ conquers...

Rex regum, Rex noster, Spes nostra, Gloria nostra.

Exaudi, Christe, cunctis gentium principibus

et omnibus sibi commissis:

honor illaesus, vita et victoria.

Exaudi, Christe, o rex gentium,

et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis,

qui facit utraque unum.

Christus vincit...

King of kings. Our king. Our hope. Our glory..

Listen, Christ, to all the princes of the

peoples and to those entrusted to their care:

unbroken honour, life and victory.

Listen, Christ, O king of the peoples,

their desired one, and cornerstone,

who makes both one.

Christ conquers...

Auxilium nostrum. Fortitudo nostra.

Arma nostra invictissima.

Murus noster inexpugnabilis, lux, via, et vita nostra.

Our help. Our strength.

Our invincible power.

Our impenetrable wall, light, path and our life.

Exaudi, Christe, O Emmanuel,
rex et legifer noster,
exspectatio gentium et salvator earum.
Christus vincit...

Listen, Christ, Emmanuel,
our king and law-giver, the expectation
of the peoples and their saviour.
Christ conquers...

Ipsi soli imperium, laus et iubilatio
per infinita saecula saeculorum. Amen.

To him alone be power, praise and glory
through unending ages of ages. Amen.

Tempora bona habeant,
redempti sanguine Christi!
Feliciter! Feliciter! Feliciter!
Pax Christi veniat!
Regnum Christi veniat!
Deo gratias. Amen.

May they have happiness,
who are redeemed by the blood of Christ!
Joyfully! Joyfully! Joyfully!
May the peace of Christ come!
May the kingdom of Christ come!
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Words and Music: *Traditional, pre-Norman conquest Fécamp Abbey*

We sing this hymn,

Stand

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.*

Lower voices

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

Upper voices

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.*

All

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

O come, O come Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain, clothed with awe
Gavest thy folk the elder law.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Words: 18th century tr. T.A. Lacey
Music: adapted from a French Missal by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

Sit

Introduction

We sit, and the Priest introduces the service,

As we enter, eager and expectant, into this solemn season of Advent, looking forward to the birth of the Christ-child, let us renew in ourselves that vision of God's perfect kingdom which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

In sorrow and penitence we confess our failures and shortcomings, and seek pardon for those sins which frustrate God's path for us and hinder the advent of the reign of love.

So in prayer, praise, and song we give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that the kingdom will come; and as we prepare for that day to dawn upon us from on high we commend ourselves and the whole human family to God's keeping.

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

Let us pray,

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now, in the time of this mortal life, in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Choir sings this antiphon,

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the most High, and reachest from one end to another mightily, and sweetly ordering all things. Come and teach us the way of prudence.

The choir sings,

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-

High and low, rich and poor, one with another?

Words: Responsory from Matins of the First Sunday of Advent

Music: Adapted from Palestrina (1525-1594)

First Lesson

Ecclesiasticus 24.3-9

The Spirit of God was in the beginning

Responsory

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious

And his mercy endures for ever

Who by wisdom made the heavens

And his mercy endures for ever

Who led his people through the wilderness

And his mercy endures for ever.

From Psalm 136

Stand

We sing this hymn,

Choir only 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.

All

The virgin womb that burden gained
 With virgin honour all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow;
 God in His temple dwells below.

O equal to the Father, thou!
 Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
 With deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
 And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
 And twilight never intervene.

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 (340-397), trans. J.M. Neale*

Music: *M.. Praetorius (1571-1621)*

The choir sings this antiphon,

O Adonai, and leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law in Sinai: Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.
(Adonai, a Hebrew word meaning "My Lord")

Sit

Second Lesson
Exodus 3.1-6
I am who I am

Responsory

The Lord is great in Zion
And high above all peoples
You answer us, O God,
And pardon our offences
We exalt you, O Lord God,
And worship you, for you are holy.

From Psalm 99

The choir sings this carol,

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: *William Bartholomew (1793-1867)*
Music: *Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)*

The choir sings this antiphon,

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people,
before whom kings fall silent, whom the Gentiles shall seek:
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 11.1-9

From Israel's roots will come one who is to save the world

Responsory

Lord, you make known your salvation

In the sight of every nation

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth

Break into singing and make music

For you judge the world with righteousness

And all your people with equity.

From Psalm 98

The choir sings this carol,

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
there be one God in persons three: *Pares forma.*

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
and follow we this joyous birth: *Transeamus.*

Words *Traditional 15th century*

Music: *John Joubert (1927-2019)*

Stand

We sing this hymn,

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear,
faithful men and women praying,
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:
the Desire of all the nations-
it is time he should appear!'

Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened her with blessing
and he pained her with renown;
for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.

Earth had groaned and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran:
son of Mary, son of David,
Son of God, and Son of man.

Words: *Walter Chalmers Smith (1872-1958)*

Music: *French carol melody*

Sit

The choir sings this carol,

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.

Words and Music: *George Guest (1924-2002)*

The choir sings this antiphon,

O Dayspring, brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun
of righteousness. Come and enlighten him that
sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

Fourth lesson
John 3.16-21
Jesus the Light of the World

Responsory

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens
And your faithfulness to the clouds
Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains
And your justice like the great deep
With you is the well of life
And in your light we shall see light.

From Psalm 36

We sing this hymn

Stand

Choir only 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.

All

Thou camest, 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: *Latin*, tr: J M Neale
Music: *Plainchant 'Conditor Alme'*

Sit

The Choir sings this carol,

I sing of a maiden that is makeless:
King of all Kings, to her son she ches.

He came all so still, there his mother was
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came all so still to his mother's bower
As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came all so still, there his mother lay,
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden was never none but she:
Well may such a lady Goddes mother be.

Words: *15th century English*
Music: *Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989)*

The choir sings this antiphon before and after the Gospel,

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be? For neither before thee
was any like thee, nor shall there be after.
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?
The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

Gospel of the Annunciation

Luke 1:26-35

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin.

The choir repeats the antiphon.

Sit

The Choir sings Mary's Song, the Magnificat,

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

Words; *Luke 1.46-55*
Music: *Plainchant traditional*

The choir sings this antiphon,

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Desire of all Nations and their salvation.
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Sixth Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

St John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of Jesus.

The choir sings this carol,

O thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most high, eternal light
Of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine;
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Words: *Harry Bramley (1833-1917)*

Music: *Charles Wood (1866-1926)*

We sing this hymn,

Stand

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.

Words: *Frederick Myers (1843-1901)*
Music: *Richard Terry (1865-1938)*

Sit

Responsory

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.

We keep silence, then a Minister leads us in prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Minister Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Stand

We sing this 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 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!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Words: *Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Music: *Melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)*

The Priest says the Blessing,

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

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 bring forth the fruits of holiness.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Organ Music

A retiring collection will be taken. If you are a UK taxpayer please use the Gift Aid envelope provided. This enables us to recover the tax at no cost to you. Simply sign and fill in the details. Thank you very much for your donation.

Christmas Services 2021-22

December 17th-24th Christmas Tree Festival

December 18th 5.00pm Christingle Service

December 29th 5.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

December 24th 4.00pm Crib Service
 11.30pm The Midnight Mass

December 25th 8.00am Holy Communion (said)
 10.00am Christmas Eucharist with carols

December 26th 10.00am Parish Eucharist - the Feast of St Stephen