



ALL SAINTS
HIGH WYCOMBE



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CALM and BRIGHT

Advent Carol Service
2024

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.

The congregation remaining seated, the soloist, Julian Brockless, sings
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Words: Isaiah 9.2 Music: G F Handel (from Messiah)

We stand to sing this 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.***

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)*

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 then 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 a Magnificat by G. Palestrina (c1525-1594)*

First Lesson

Zechariah 9.9-10

Rejoice greatly, your king comes to you

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

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.

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 and Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1809-1907), trans. William Bartholomew (1793-1867)

We stand to 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.**

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 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)*

Second Lesson

Jeremiah 23.5-6

I will raise up for David a righteous branch

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 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")

Third Lesson

Psalm 118.19-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness

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,

Angelus ad virginem,
Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit "Ave!
Ave, regina virginum:

The angel came to the Virgin,
entering secretly into her room;
the Virgin's fear
calming, he said, "Hail!
Hail, queen of virgins:

Coeli terraeque dominum
Concipies et paries intacta
Salutem hominum;
Tu porta coeli facta,
Medela criminum."

"Quomodo conciperem,
Quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem,
Quae firma mente vovi?"
"Spiritus sancti gratia
Perficiet haec omnia.
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas
Secura, quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia."

Ad haec, virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei,
"Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi coelesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio,
Parata sum parere Dei consilio."

Eia Mater Domini,
Quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini
Cum Christum genuisti!
Tuum exora filium
Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, et deleat peccata,
Praestans auxilium vita frui beata
Post hoc exilium.

you will conceive the Lord of
heaven and earth and bear him, still
a virgin, to be the salvation of
mankind; you are made the gate of
heaven, the cure of sins."

"How can I conceive, When I have
never known a man?
How can I transgress that which I
have vowed with a firm mind?"
"The grace of the Holy Spirit shall
do all this.
Do not be afraid, but rejoice
without a care, since your chastity
will remain in you unspoilt through the
power of God."

To this, the noble Virgin,
replying, said to him,
"I am the humble maidservant
of almighty God.
To you, heavenly messenger,
and bearer of such a great secret,
I give my consent, and wishing to
see done what I hear,
I am ready to obey the will of God."

Hail, Mother of our Lord,
who brought peace back
to angels and men
when you bore Christ!
Pray your son may show favour to
us and blot out our sins,
giving us help
to enjoy a blessed life
after this exile.

Words of Franciscan origin Music: 14th Century, arr David Willcocks (1919-2015)

We stand to sing this 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 thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707 - 88)
Music: Sir John Stainer (1840 - 1901)*

We sit as 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

Isaiah 9.2,6,7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

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

The choir sings this antiphon,

O Key of David, and sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest
and no man shutteth, and shuttest, and no man openeth;
Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison-house, and
him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

We stand to sing this hymn,

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'*

Gospel of the Annunciation

Luke 1:26-35

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin.

The choir sings this antiphon.

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.

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: Jeremy Jackman (1952-)*

The choir repeats the antiphon,

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.

Stand

Gospel of the Advent

Mark 1:1-8

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

We sing this 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,
wrapping all the earth in fear,
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. **Amen.**

*Words: Latin, tr E. Caswall (1814-78)
Music: W.H. Monk (1823-89)*

We sit, and the choir sings,

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,
that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation;
that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Words: Isaiah 52.7 Music John Stainer (2840-1901)

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.

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.

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.

We keep silence. 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.**
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.
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

We stand to 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.**

*The organist plays Nun komm der Heiden Heiland - Pachelbel as the choir
and clergy depart.*

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Sunday Services

8.00 am	Holy Communion (said)
10.00 am	Eucharist
5.00 pm	Evening service

Christmas 2024-25

December 17th-23rd		Christmas Tree Festival
December 22nd	5.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
December 24th	4.00pm	Christingle round the Crib
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
December 25th	8.00am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.00am	Christmas Eucharist with carols
December 29th	8.00am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
January 5th	8.00am	Holy Communion (said)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
	5.00pm	Epiphany Choral Service

May you have a peace-filled Advent and a joy-filled Christmas.