



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

Advent Carol Service

Advent Sunday

28 November 2021

6.30pm

Welcome to Lancaster Priory.

This year's Advent Carol Service is shaped around the theme of the messengers. We recall the prophets, John the Baptist and the early church faithful in their witness to the coming Christ and his Kingdom.

We pray that we might share in their experience and that we may be renewed as God's messengers of hope in our generation.

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out
with lighted lamps and garlands round about
to meet Him in a rapture with a shout. (Advent Sunday, Christina Rossetti)

The priory rests in darkness and silence. The Easter Candle and congregational candles are lit. The clergy, choir and servers gather in quire aisle.

Introit The Advent Prose

Reading Isaiah 40.4-11

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,

'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Silence is kept.

Processional Hymn (HCFC p.230)

The nave lights are switched on as the procession moves to the High Altar. We stand to sing

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone
far from the face of God's dear Son:

4.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.*

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

2.O come, O come, Adonaï,
who in thy glorious majesty
from Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe, Words Cologne 1710
gavest thy folk the ancient law:

3.O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from those dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell, thy people save:

The Call to Keep the Spirit of Advent *We sit.*

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and has made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you. Grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate the coming of God's Kingdom let us celebrate with music and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life, that we may bear witness to his glory, and so bring light to those who sit in darkness.

Let us pray for those amongst whom Christ was born:
the poor, the helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry, and the homeless; those who live in the shadow of war; all victims of war, poverty, injustice, greed and oppression; the sick, the bereaved; the lonely, the

unloved; and all those in despair and without hope. As we hear again God's promises of justice and peace on earth, let us pray for the leaders of the nations, that they may work tirelessly to establish and maintain justice, freedom, and peace. And, so following in the footsteps of the messengers who have proclaimed the coming of Christ and his kingdom, we pray that we may bear true witness to this vision of God's kingdom in our own generation. Praying that through our lives and the life of the church, we may bring about peace, unity and reconciliation in a broken and divided world. Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in light, let us remember all those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. And now, summing up all our prayers, let us pray for the coming of Christ's kingdom in the words our Lord himself has taught us

**Our Father, who 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 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.**

We extinguish our candles.

Hymn (T.106) *We stand. The choir moves to the stalls in the quire.*

When the King shall come again
all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign,
life and joy and healing;
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated;
this is God's redemption day
longingly awaited.

2. In the desert trees take root
fresh from his creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration;
rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning;
valleys, this is your new birth,
mountains, greet the morning!

3. Strengthen feeble hands and knees,
fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God who comes from such as these
seeks and saves the fearful:
now the deaf can hear the dumb
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes see the injured come
walking, running, leaping.

4. There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean,
walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound
all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned,
share in his rejoicing!

Words C Idle b. 1938

We sit.

Anthem The waiting sky (Tarney)

The trees are bare, green fields where puddles hold the waiting sky.
The cows move slowly, their breathing clouds the air as they walk by.
What if the clouds smother the shining star? We'll know it's there.
Warm light will fill the puddles, and the cows will stop and stare.

Reading Isaiah 52.8-10

How beautiful on the mountains.

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Silence is kept.

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Hymn (320i) *We 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?

2. 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!

3. 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.

4. 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 F.W.H. Myers

Reading Malachi 3.1-5

Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,
and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming,
says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can
stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he
will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of
Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the
Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be
pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will

draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Anthem The call of wisdom (Todd)

Collect

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Hymn (5) *We stand.*

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 earthbound 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 with 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.

Words From the Latin,
tr. E Caswall 1814-78

We sit.

Reading Isaiah 61.1-3,11

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Silence is kept.

Anthem O thou the central orb (Wood)

Collect

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, and we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Reading Revelation 1:4b-7

The Lord is near.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. .

Silence is kept.

Anthem And I saw a new heaven (Bainton)

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Hymn (12)

We stand. The choir, clergy and servers move to the font/tower.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of 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 Spirit blest, for evermore.

Words C Coffin 1678-1749

We sit.

Reading Luke 1.5-25

The birth of John the Baptist is foretold

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments

and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

Silence is kept.

Anthem Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd) (Translation)

Then did priests make offering of incense and loaves of finest wheat to God:
and therefore shall they be holy to their Lord and shall not defile his most holy
name. Alleluia

The Advent Collect *We stand*

We pray together

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: so 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn (9)

During this hymn, servers, choir and clergy process around the Priory ending in the quire.

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Words C Wesley 1707-88

Final Responory

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.

Organ Voluntary

Carillon on 'Carol of the Advent' (Velde)

During the voluntary the choir, servers and clergy depart.

Acknowledgements

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Pastoral Services and Times and Seasons, material from which is included in this service, are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2005 and 2006. The Scripture quotations contained herein are from The New Revised Standard Version Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Christian Copyright Licence 849167 and Music Reproduction Licence M267952, Lancaster Priory.