



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

Advent Carol Service

27 November 2022

Welcome to Lancaster Priory.

Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed by Christians as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.

The name was adopted from Latin *adventus* "coming; arrival", translating Greek *parousia*. In the New Testament, this is the term used for the Second Coming of Christ. Thus, the season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the "coming of Christ" from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the eschatological Second Coming. As part of our keeping of Advent, we celebrate this time with an Advent Carol Service, using hymns and carols that reflect on these Advent themes.

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

*This service is sung by the Priory Choir conducted by Don Gilthorpe,
Director of Music. The organ is played by Ian Pattinson, Priory Organist.*

*To mark the solemnity of the Advent Season, please respect the silence before the
service as we gather for worship*

The Priory rests in darkness and silence. We remain seated as the choir sings

Choir Introit *Advent Prose*

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

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

2 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:

3 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen:
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none
that can deliver out of my hand:

4 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud
thy transgressions:
Fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer:

Processional Hymn (NEH 11)

*During which the congregation's candles are lit and the Priory lights are
switched on. Please stand to sing*

1 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.*

2 O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
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.

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.

5 O come, Desire of nations! show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Cologne 1710
Based on Ancient Advent Antiphons
Tr T A Lacey 1853-1931

The Call to Keep the Spirit of Advent *The officiant says*

Beloved in Christ, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ's nativity as also for the day when he shall come to judge the hearts of us all. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the 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 word and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that God's kingdom will come; and, with John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church. Let us then pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**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.

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting.

Amen.

We extinguish our candles.

Choir 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.

The message of Advent

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:
And all flesh shall see it together.

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever.

Amen.

O Antiphons *A cantor sings*

O SAPIENTIA 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.

O ADONAI O Adonai, Deliverer of the house of Israel, who in Sinai did'st give the law to Moses: Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

First Lesson Isaiah 11:1-5

The prophet speaks of the righteous Judge who will come from the line of David

Choir Anthem *The Call of wisdom (Todd)*

Lord of wisdom, lord of truth, lord of justice, lord of mercy.
Walk beside us down the years, 'till we see you in your glory.
Striving to attain the heights.
Turning in a new direction.
Entering a lonely place.
Welcoming a friend or stranger.
I am here, I am with you.
I have called, do you hear me?

I am here, I am here, I am with you.
Silver is of passing worth (Silver), gold is not of constant value.
Jewels sparkle for a while.
What you long for is not lasting.
I am here, I am with you.
I have called, do you hear me?
I am here, I am with you.
Rulers govern under me.
With my insight and my wisdom.
Those who know me know my love.
Those who seek me find their answer.
I am here, I am with you.
I have called, do you hear me?
I am here, I am here.
I am with you.
God, the father and the son.
Holy Spirit, coeternal.
Glory, glory, be ascribed to you.
Now and to the end, to the end of ages.
I am here, I am with you.
I have called, do you hear me?
I am here, I am with you.

Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–11

The call to be vigilant in preparation for the coming of the Lord

Hymn (T.320i) *Please stand*

1 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 Yea through life, 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.

F W H Myers (1843-1901)

The Word of God

O people of Sion, behold the Lord is nigh at hand to redeem the nations, and in the gladness of your heart the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard.

Declare his honour unto the nations:
And his wonders unto all people.

Collect

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O Antiphons *A cantor sings*

O RADIX JESSE O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

O CLAVIS DAVID 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.

Third Lesson Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.

Choir Anthem *O Thou the central orb* (Gibbons)

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the Most High, eternal Light
Of this our bleak world, where Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in Faith; Hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let Thy radiant Glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heav'n 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 pow'r to prove.
Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of our sin,
Our nature all shall then feel eternal day,
In fellowship with Thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Fourth Lesson Luke 4: 14–21

The words of the Prophet Isaiah are fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

The Prophetic Call

Behold, I will send my Messenger and he shall prepare the way before me.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord:
Make his paths straight.

Collect

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy Messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O Antiphons *A cantor sings*

O ORIENS O Day-Spring, Brightness of Light Everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness: Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

O REX GENTIUM O King of the Nations, and their desire; the Corner-Stone, who makest both one: Come and save mankind, whom thou hast formedst of clay.

Fifth Lesson Matthew 3: 1–11

The proclamation of John the Baptist.

Hymn (NEH 12) *Please stand*

1 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
Tr J Chandler 1808-76

The Christ-Bearer

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, 'God with us.'

Unto us a Son is given.

Unto us a child is born.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst stoop to raise our fallen race by the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen thy glory manifested in our flesh, and thy love perfected in our weakness, may daily be renewed in thine image, and conformed to the likeness of thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

O Antiphons *A cantor sings*

O EMMANUEL O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the desire of all nations, and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Sixth Lesson Luke 1:39-56

Mary shares her joyful news with Elizabeth.

Choir Anthem *Stella maris micaris clare* (Cooper)

Behold and see, Oh lady free,
Quem meruisti portare,
[He whom you were merited to bear]
God and man is he, thus we believe.

Regina caeli, laetare.

[Queen of Heaven, rejoice]

King Assuere, thy son so dear,
In bliss so clear, he hath no peer.

Stella maris, micaris clare,

[Star of the sea, glittering clear]

Regina caeli, laetare.

By thy sweet child, so meek and mild,
Quem meruisti portare.

Man, that was wild, is reconciled,

Regina caeli, laetare.

The heavenly choir that Lord so dear
With voices clear, laudeth in fere.

[Praises in harmony]

Regina caeli, laetare.
Stella maris, micaris clare,
Sing laetare.
That Lord and King to bliss us bring,
Laetare, That we may sing without ending,
Regina caeli, laetare.

Seventh Lesson John 3: 1–8

Jesus speaks with Nicodemus of the 'birth from above'

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:
For he hath visited and redeemed his people.

The Intercessions

During the intercessions the following response is used

Maranatha! **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

And at the end the whole congregation pray together

Come, O Lord, do not delay; give new courage to your people who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to the joy of your kingdom, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Choir Anthem *Seek him that maketh the seven stars (Dove)*

Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
the night is light about me. Amen.

The Blessing *Silence is kept. The Officiant declares God's 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 with you now and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn (NEH 9)

Please stand. During this hymn, servers, choir and clergy depart.

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.

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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

C Wesley 1707-88

Organ Voluntary *Carillon on 'Carol of the Advent'* (Rebecca Groom te Velde)