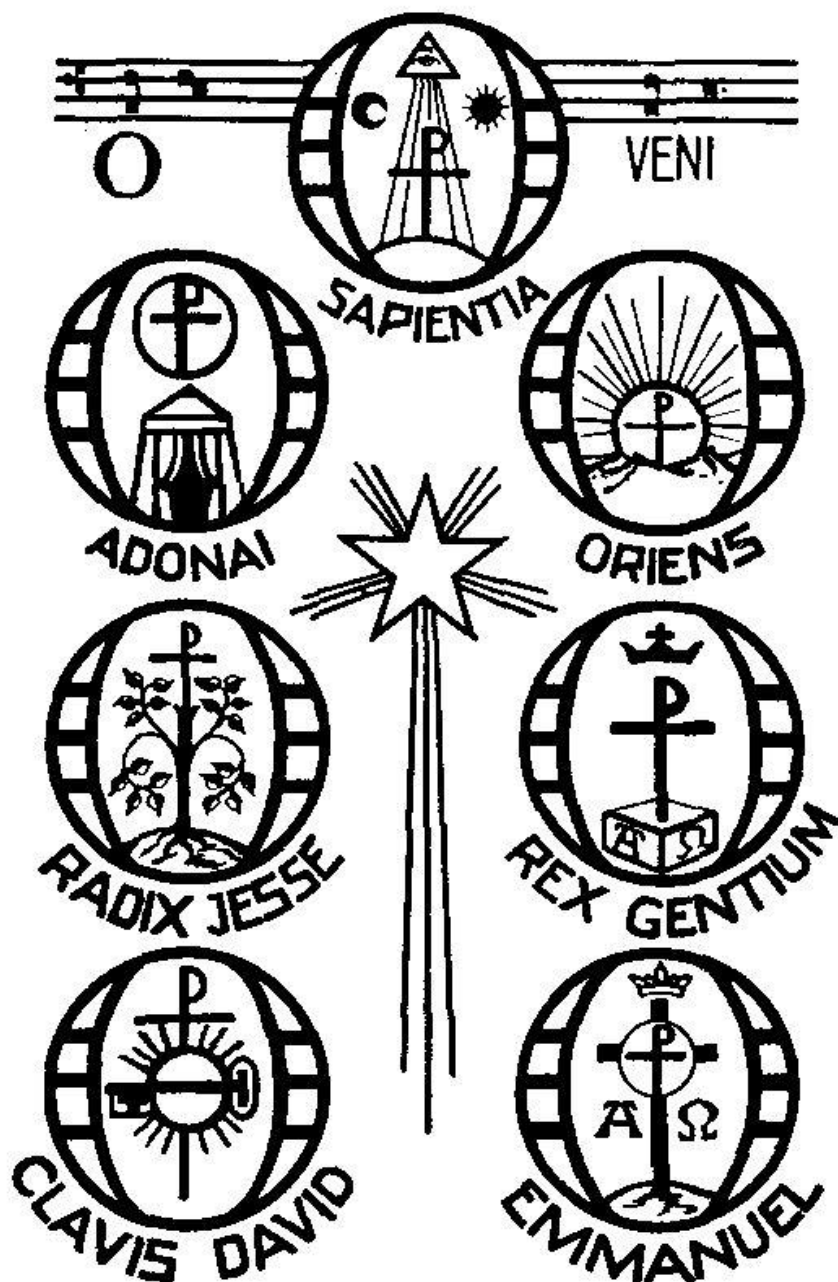


The Chapel of Selwyn College, Cambridge

A PROCESSION FOR

ADVENT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020 at 6:00pm



AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS SERVICE

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord, a season of penitence and expectation. During the Advent Sunday Procession, the Choir processes from West to East, from darkness into light – a movement symbolising the journey of God’s faithful people.

The readings from the Old Testament reflect the darkness and despair of Israel and their longing for redemption. The Prophets’ predictions of the coming of the Messiah reveal the first signs of the one true Light. In the New Testament readings, the hopes of God’s people are realised.

The Great ‘O’ Antiphons have been in constant Christian use since the eighth century. They are a collage of Old Testament ‘types’ of Jesus, which express the human desire and longing for God. This desire was fulfilled on the night in Bethlehem when Emmanuel – God with us – was born. The Antiphons are gathered together in the hymn ‘O come, O come, Emmanuel’.

With thanks to all who have worked to prepare music for this service, to all readers, and to Emily Williams, who is in charge of the livestream.

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The service begins in darkness and in silence.

CHOIR O come, O come, Emmanuel

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, 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, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law. *Rejoice...*

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. *Rejoice...*

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...*

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...*

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: Cologne 1710, based on Advent Antiphons, tr. T. A. Lacey (1853-1931)
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, arranged by Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Minister: 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 his redemptive purposes and hinder the advent of his reign of love.

So in prayer, praise and song do we give voice to the hope set forth in the Scriptures, that his kingdom shall come; and, as we prepare for that day to dawn upon us from on high, so we commend ourselves and the whole human family to his keeping.

May he guide us into the way of peace, give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, and kindle in us the fire of his love.

All: Amen, come Lord Jesus.

O ANTIPHON 1 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.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 1: 1-5

The Lord, the Creator, forms light, creates darkness.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

CHOIR **Arise, shine** (*first performance*)

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but
the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
Regard thy servants when they call.

Words: Isaiah 60: 1-2 and
Latin, ninth century; tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
Music: Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

O ANTIPHON 2 **O Adonai**

O Adonai,
and Leader of the house of Israel,
who appearedst in the Bush of Moses in a flame of fire,
and gavest him the law in Sinai:
Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

SECOND LESSON **Isaiah 45: 2-8**

God outlines his plans for Jerusalem.

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces
the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the
treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know
that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy
name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the LORD,
and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast
not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west,
that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the

light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

CHOIR Advent Prose

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 city is a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house,
where our fathers praised thee.

Drop down...

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...

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.

Drop down...

words: traditional Advent hymn
music: Rorate coeli (Mode i)

O ANTIPHON 3 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.

THIRD LESSON Baruch 4:36 – 5:9

Look to the East for the light of God's glory.

O Jerusalem, look about thee toward the east, and behold the joy that cometh unto thee from God. Lo, thy sons come, whom thou sentest away, they come gathered together from the east to the west by the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Put off, O Jerusalem, the garment of mourning and affliction, and put on the comeliness of the glory that cometh from God for ever. Cast about thee a double garment of the righteousness which cometh from God; and set a diadem on thine head of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will shew thy brightness unto every country under heaven. For thy name shall be called of God for ever The peace of righteousness, and The glory of God's worship.

Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high, and look about toward the east, and behold thy children gathered from the west unto the east by the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the remembrance of God. For they departed from thee on foot, and were led away of their enemies: but God bringeth them unto thee exalted with glory, as children of the kingdom. For God hath appointed that every high hill, and banks of long continuance, should be cast down, and valleys filled up, to make even the ground, that Israel may go safely in the glory of God, Moreover even the woods and every sweet-smelling tree shall overshadow Israel by the commandment of God. For God shall lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory with the mercy and righteousness that cometh from him.

CHOIR People Look East

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.

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.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
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, arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

O ANTIPHON 4 O Clavis David

O Key of David,
and Sceptre of the house of Israel;
that openest, and no man shuttest,
and shuttest, and no man openeth:
come and bring the prisoner out of the prison house,
and him that sittest in darkness,
and the shadow of death.

FOURTH LESSON**Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7**

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

O ANTIPHON 5**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.

ANTHEM**The angel and the Unicorn** *(first performance)*

The Annunciation

It was not the entrance of an angel, mark you,
that startled her. Any more than others start
when sun's rays or moon by night
intrude into a room,
she maintained to be affronted by
the form angels take;
she hardly guessed how onerous
that sojourn is. (O, if we knew
how pure she was. Had not a resting hind
once glimpsed her in the woods,
and lost itself in her such that,
unmated, it begat a unicorn,
the beast of purity and light?)

It was not the angel's entrance, but the closeness
of the youngling's face
as he bowed: her upward gaze and his
fused together as if outside
all at once was void
and what millions had seen and done and borne
compressed in her: just her and him;
beholder and beheld, eye and eye's delight
no otherwhere but here. Look:
it is startling. And it startled them both.
Then the angel sang his song.
Ave Maria.

words: Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) tr. Simon Beattie
music: Simon Beattie (b. 1975)

O ANTIPHON 6

O Rex Gentium

O King of the Nations,
and their Desire;
the Cornerstone, who makest both one:
Come and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.

FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 1: 18-23

The birth of the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

CHOIR And art thou come with us to dwell?

And art Thou come with us to dwell,
Our Prince, our Guide, our Love, our Lord?
And is Thy name Emmanuel,
God present with His world restored?

The heart is glad for Thee! it knows
None now shall bid it err or mourn;
And o’er its desert breaks the rose
In triumph o’er the grieving thorn.

Thou bringest all again; with Thee
Is light, is space, is breadth and room
For each thing fair, beloved, and free
To have its hour of life and bloom.

The world is glad for Thee! the heart
Is glad for Thee! and all is well,
And fixed and sure, because Thou art,
Whose name is called Emmanuel!

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

words: Dora Greenwell (1821-1882)
music: Alan Bullard (b. 1947)

SIXTH LESSON John 3: 16-21

Jesus is the light of the world

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might

be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

O ANTIPHON 7

O Emmanuel

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

THE COLLECTS FOR ADVENT

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 for ever. **Amen.**

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

CHOIR

Lo, he comes with clouds descending

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

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: HELMSLEY, arranged by Sarah MacDonald

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Minister We wait for your loving kindness, O God,
All In the midst of your temple.

Minister Our help is in the name of the Lord.
All Who made heaven and earth.

Minister May God the Father, judge all-merciful, make us worthy
of a place in his Kingdom.

All Amen.

Minister May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

All Amen.

Minister May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope, and constant in love.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Minister Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

CHOIR VESPER RESPONSORY

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed.

Tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.

Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

Tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord he will be with you.

words: Vesper Responory for Advent Sunday

music: adapted from Palestrina (1525-1594) by Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (BWV 645)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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