

THE CHURCH OF
ST MARY THE VIRGIN
THE LACEMARKET
NOTTINGHAM



AN ADVENT PROCESSION

SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2021

6.30 p.m.

The Congregation is requested to stand at the entry of the Choir and Clergy until the Bidding Prayer; please sit for subsequent Lessons, Anthems and Motets, except where indicated.



ADVENT

The movement of this service is from West to East, toward the dawning of the new day. Advent looks forward, both to the coming of the Christ Child in Bethlehem and to the coming of the Lord in glory at the end of time. The liturgy leads us into the future, whatever that may hold, when the Kingdom of God dawns upon the world with healing for all mankind.

“As watchmen wait for the morning
so do we look for thee, O Christ;
Come and delay not, with the dawning of the day.”



ORDER OF SERVICE

Choir **Veni Domine**

Veni Domine, et noli tardare. Veni visitare nos in pace,
ut laetemur coram te corde perfecto.

*Come, O Lord, delay not, visit us in peace, that we may rejoice
before thee with a perfect heart.*

Music by Juan Esquivel (fl. 1608)

I look from afar and lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.

All **Let us go before him, for he comes to rule his people.**

Tell us, art thou he that should come:

All **To rule over thy people Israel?**

Lift up your heads, O ye gates: yea, lift them up ye
ancient doors:

All **And the King of Glory shall come in.**

BIDDING PRAYER

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you:
Grace to you and peace.

As we enter with expectation this solemn season of Advent looking forward
to the birth of Christ among us let us renew within ourselves that vision
of God's perfect kingdom which is the end of all our striving and the
consummation of all our hope.

In prayer, praise and song do we give voice to that hope set forth in the
scriptures, that his kingdom shall come; and, as we prepare for that day to dawn
from on high so we commend ourselves and the whole world to his keeping;
May he guide us into the way of peace. May he give light to those who sit in
darkness and under the shadow of death.

May the light of God kindle the spark of divine love within each person
here tonight.

Stir up thy power, O Christ, and with great might come among us; and,
because we are sore let and hindered by our sins, Grant that thy grace may
speedily help and deliver us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

THE FIRST LESSON

And God said: let there be light

Genesis i. vv. 1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Choir Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
The tree of life my soul has seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly have I bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.
I'm weary of my former toil,
Here will I sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words: anon.
Music by Elizabeth Poston (1905 - 1987)

THE SECOND LESSON
Advent Calendar

Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.
He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.

HYMN

**Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'**

**Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill 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;

that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father, and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

THE THIRD LESSON

Lift up your eyes and look about you

Isaiah 60.1-5a

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

Choir The Record of John

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

Text: John 1: 19-23

Music by Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

HYMN

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.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way of God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thy hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

THE FOURTH LESSON

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

Isaiah 9: 2,3,6,7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Choir Bogoroditse Devo
 Bogoroditse Devo, raduisya
 Blagodatnaya Marie
 Gospod's Toboyu
 Blagoslovena Ti v'zhenah, i blagosloven
 Plod chreva Tvoego
 Yako Spasa rodila, esi dush nashih
 *Rejoice O Virgin, Theotokos [God-bearer],
 Mary full of grace, the Lord is with You.
 Blessed are You among women,
 and blessed is the Fruit of Your womb,
 for You have borne the Savior of our souls.*

Music by Sergei Rachmaninov (1873 - 1943)

Choir 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 shewed 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.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

Music by Arvo Pärt (1935 -)

THE FIFTH LESSON

Waiting in Hope

Henri Nouwen

(from *A Spirituality of Waiting: Being Alert to God's Presence in our Lives*, Weavings January 1987)

Much of our waiting is filled with wishes. "I wish that the weather would be better." "I wish that the pain would go away." We are full of wishes, and our waiting easily gets entangled in those wishes. For this reason, a lot of our waiting is not open-ended. Instead, our waiting is a way of controlling the future. We want the future to go in a very specific direction, and if this does not happen, we are disappointed and can easily slip into despair. This is why we have such a hard time waiting, we want to do the things that will make the desired events take place. Here we can see how wishes tend to be connected with fears.

Hope is something very different. Hope is trusting that something will be fulfilled, but fulfilled according to the promises and not just according to our wishes. Therefore, hope is always open ended. I have found it very important in my own life to let go of my wishes and start hoping. It was only when I was willing to let go of wishes that something really new, something beyond my expectations, could happen to me.

Choir Ave maris stella
Hail, O Star of the ocean,
God's own Mother blest,
ever sinless Virgin,
gate of heav'nly rest.

Break the sinners' fetters,
make our blindness day,
Chase all evils from us,
for all blessings pray.

Keep our life all spotless,
make our way secure
till we find in Jesus,
joy for evermore.

Praise to God the Father,
honour to the Son,
in the Holy Spirit,
be the glory one. Amen.

Words: anon. 9 century Music: Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

HYMN

(During this Hymn a Collection shall be taken. If you would like to make your donation by mobile phone please use the QR code on the back page of the Order of Service.)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

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

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, thou key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

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

All remain standing for

THE SIXTH LESSON
I am the light of the world

John 3: 16-21

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Choir Rorate caeli

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum: aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.

Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

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

Lord, thou hast blessed thy land: Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

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.

Text: Isaiah 45 v.8; Psalm 84 v.1
Music by William Byrd (1540-1623)

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Please stand

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light.
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
and 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 LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which 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 them that 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.

THE COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

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.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN

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



Organ Music after the Service

Nun komm der heiden Heiland BWV 659

J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

