Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD

“Hark, the Glad Sound:"

FRIDESWIDE VOICES
LESSONS & CAROLS FOR ADVENT
Wednesday 9 December 2020 6pm
Welcome to this service of Advent readings and carols, sung by Frideswide Voices with the Lay and Academical Clerks of the Cathedral Choir. We are delighted that you have joined us in worship this evening, whether here in the cathedral or via livestream at home, as through words and music, we hear again the message of Advent: that God’s promises are true, our hope is not misplaced, God’s salvation is coming in the shape of Jesus, our Saviour.

The order of service invites you to sit, stand and kneel at various points in the service. Please sit throughout if that is easier for you, and please join in with the words in bold.

**The Season of Advent**

Advent means ‘coming’. For many centuries, Christians have observed at this time of year a season of preparation with a double focus. We prepare for Christmas, hearing again promises from Scripture of a Saviour who will come, and looking forward to celebrating that first coming of Jesus Christ, born as a baby in Bethlehem of Judaea at the first Christmas. Yet, knowing that our world is still full of darkness and pain, we await his second coming, to judge the world and usher in his Kingdom in all its fullness. We pray the most ancient of all Christian prayers: Maranatha: Our Lord, Come!

The title of this service, ‘Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes’, is the opening line of an Advent hymn by Philip Doddridge (1702–1751). The promise of the coming of Christ is a joyful promise, and our response is to lift our hearts in praise and prayer. We pray in gladness at the reminder of the coming of Christ at Christmas, and in glad anticipation of the day when all will be made new in Christ.

**Frideswide Voices**

Frideswide Voices is the girls’ choir which forms part of our choral foundation here at Christ Church. The girls, aged between seven and 14, come from a variety of schools across Oxfordshire. Under the direction of Helen Smee, they sing regularly in the cathedral with the Lay and Academical Clerks of the choir.
Please remain seated for the Introit, during which the clergy take their places.

**Introit**

Bereite dich, Zion, mit zärtlichen Trieben,
   Den Schönsten, den Liebsten bald bei dir zu sehn!
   Deine Wangen
   Müssen heut viel schöner prangen,
   Eile, den Bräutigam sehnlichst zu lieben!

Prepare yourself, Zion, with tender efforts,
   to behold your lovely one, your beloved, near you soon!
   Your cheeks
   must now glow much more radiantly,
   hurry to love the Bridegroom with passion!

*WORDS:* possibly by 'Picander,'
Christian Friedrich Henrici (1700–1764)

*Music:* JS Bach (1685–1750)

Please stand.

**Opening Acclamation and Prayer**

In the name of God, who promises healing, gladness and hope: welcome. Grace and peace be with you.

We gather to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of God’s coming to our world: in the long-promised Child of Bethlehem, and on that day which we await when God will gather up all things in Christ. In our worship, let us hear again the promise that Jesus comes in righteousness and love, bringing salvation and joy. Let us join God’s people throughout history, and respond to these promises in faith and trust. Let us commit ourselves once more to waiting in glad expectancy for Christ’s coming, and renew in ourselves the hope of glory to which Christ beckons us.

And as we prepare ourselves to meet our Lord with joy, let us hold in our hearts all those who cannot be joyful, for whom all is darkness and despair. We pray for all who at this time especially need God’s pity and protection. And we trust in God’s promises that sorrow and sadness will flee in the radiance of Christ’s love.
In hope and expectation of Christ’s coming, let us pray:

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;
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,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please sit.

First Reading
Isaiah 52:1–2, 7–10

The prophet announces the redemption of Jerusalem.

Awake, awake,
put on your strength, O Zion!
Put on your beautiful garments,
O Jerusalem, the holy city;
for the uncircumcised and the unclean
shall enter you no more.
Shake yourself from the dust, rise up,
O captive Jerusalem;
loose the bonds from your neck,
O captive daughter Zion!

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’
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.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me, he heard my complaint. O blest are they that hope and trust in him.

*WORDS: Psalm 40:1, 5*
*MUSIC: JL Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809–47)*

Advent Credo
Allan Boesak (b. 1946)

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—
This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—
This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.
It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—
This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—
This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—
This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—
This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

Silence is kept.
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:
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

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:
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

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:
Rejoice! Rejoice!...

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!...

**Words:** Magnificat Antiphons for Advent, Latin,
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

**Music:** Veni Emmanuel, adapted by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)
arr. Paul Leddington-Wright (b. 1951)
Second Reading

Malachi 3: 1-4, 4: 1-2

*The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.*

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.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Thanks be to God.

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**Carol**

A rose there is a-springing from tender roots on earth;  
As ancient men were singing, from Jesse came its birth.  
And now this little flow’r  
Appears in coldest winter  
At this, the midnight hour.

This Rose, the stem of Jesse, by prophets once foretold;  
Mary alone has brought us the Child promised of old.  
By God’s eternal pow’r  
The Maid has borne the infant  
At this, the midnight hour.
The flow’r so small and slender shines thro’ with radiance bright;
To us so sweet and tender dispels the darkest night.
True Man with God’s true pow’r;
helps us from all our suff’ring,
saves us from death’s dark hour.

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen, von Jesse kam die Art
und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter, wohl zu der halben Nacht.
Das Röslein, das ich meine, davon Jesaia sagt,
hat uns gebracht alleine Marie, die reine Magd.
Aus Gottes ew’gem Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren wohl zu der halben Nacht.

**Third Reading**
*Isaiah 7: 10–15*

The promised child Immanuel, God is with us

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Thanks be to God.
A night was near, a day was near;
   Between a day and night
I heard sweet voices calling clear;
   Calling me:
I heard a whirr of wing on wing,
   But could not see the sight;
I long to see my birds that sing,—
   I long to see.

Below the stars, beyond the moon,
   Between the night and day,
I heard a rising falling tune
   Calling me:
I long to see the pipes and strings
   Whereon such minstrels play;
I long to see each face that sings,—
   I long to see.

To-day or may be not to-day,
   To-night or not to-night;
All voices that command or pray,
   Calling me,
Shall kindle in my soul such fire,
   And in my eyes such light,
That I shall see that heart’s desire
   I long to see.

Silence is kept.
The angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.
The first good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of one;
To see the blessed Jesus Christ
When he was first her son:
*When he was first her son, good man:*
*And blessed may he be,*
*Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,*
*To all eternity.*

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of two;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To make the lame to go:

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of three;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To make the blind to see:

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of four;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To read the bible o’er:

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of five;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To bring the dead alive:

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of six;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
Upon the crucifix:

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of sev’n;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To wear the crown of heav’n:

*Words*: traditional

Please kneel or sit.

Prayers
led by the Revd Canon Sarah Foot
Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History

The Lord’s Prayer

As we wait for the dawning light of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, as he taught us, so we pray:

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.

Please sit
Carol

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance:
Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.

Then I was born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to man’s nature,
to call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
so very poor this was my chance,
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance:

WORDS: traditional

MUSIC: traditional, arranged David Willcocks (1919–2015)

Please stand.

Blessing

given by the Revd Canon Richard Peers
Sub Dean

Christ our Lord come to meet you in gladness,
fill your hearts with joy and your souls with hope,
that awaiting the coming of his kingdom
you may be the light of his love in this world;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and all those for whom you have prayed
this night and for evermore.
Amen.

Please remain standing as the Ministers leave in procession.
If you would like to receive our weekly e-newsletter, which gives information about services, events, and the ongoing life of the cathedral, please email: cathedral@chch.ox.ac.uk. And please keep in touch through our website and social media:

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Cover image: angel from Vyner window, photograph by Ralph Williamson
Christ Church Cathedral

CHRISTMAS 2020

Sunday 20 December

6pm Cathedral Singers of Christ Church Carol Service
ticketed service, livestreamed on YouTube

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December

12 noon Journey to Bethlehem: on Zoom
   Online Crib Service for Children & Families
   see website for Zoom details

3pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
   livestreamed on YouTube

11.30pm Festal Midnight Eucharist with incense
   ticketed service, livestreamed on YouTube
   Preacher: The Archdeacon of Oxford

Christmas Day, Friday 25 December

8am Holy Communion (1662)
   no tickets necessary

11am Choral Eucharist for Christmas
   ticketed service, livestreamed on YouTube
   President: The Bishop of Oxford
   Preacher: The Sub Dean

6pm Said Evening Prayer
   no tickets necessary

   all services are free to attend

Ticketed services can be booked at
www.chch.ox.ac.uk/christmas2020