

All Saints' Church  
Thornton Hough

## Advent Carol Service



10:30am Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## ***About Advent...***

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

*Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty.* (Charles Wesley)

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains '*Maranatha*' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century and is now a common practice.

The Advent wreath has four candles in a ring around a central candle. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the central one on Christmas Day. They remind us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. The first candle represents *The Patriarchs* - Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. The second candle reminds us of the *The Prophets* gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. The third candle is for *John*, who proclaimed the Saviour, and the fourth candle reminds us of *Mary*, who bore him in her womb. The central candle reminds is of *Jesus Christ*.

The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditation.

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000) © The Archbishops' Council 2000

*The season of Advent calls us to look forward to the coming of the Christ-child. This service has the coming of light as its theme; the light being the Light of the World, our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

**Hymn: O come, O come, Emmanuel**

- 1 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.
- 2 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! Emmanuel
- 3 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! Emmanuel
- 5 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

*John Mason Neale (1818–1866)\**

*translated from Latin Advent Antiphons*

*Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 45.*

*At the conclusion of the hymn, the first candle of the Advent Wreath is lit. When the candle is lit, we say the following prayer together:*

***Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem,  
born like him to be a king:  
be born in our hearts this Christmas,  
be king of our lives today. Amen***

## The introduction

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

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's Kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us - how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols 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. So first we pray for those among whom Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry, and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his Kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

***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.***

And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now  
and at all times. ***Amen.***

**The first reading:** *And God said: Let there be light (Genesis 1:1-5)*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he 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.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Choir: Creator of the stars of night**

*Words: Anon., 7th century tr. J.M. Neale;*

*Music Malcolm Archer (from a plainsong melody)*

Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,  
And hear thy servants when they call.  
Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to evening-tide;  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.  
At thy great name, exalted now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,  
And things in heaven and earth shall own  
That thou art Lord and King alone.  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit Three in One

Laud, honour, might and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

**The second reading:** *Give light to my eyes lest I sleep* (Psalm 13)

How long, LORD? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Look on me and answer, LORD my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,  
and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him,'  
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

But I trust in your unfailing love;

my heart rejoices in your salvation.

I will sing the LORD's praise,

for he has been good to me.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Choir: Gaudete!**

*Words: 14th century; Music: 16th century from Piaae Cantiones*

*Gaudete, gaudete!*

*Christus est natus*

*Ex Maria virgine,*

*gaudete!*

*Rejoice, rejoice!*

*Christ is born*

*Of the Virgin Mary –*

*Rejoice!*

Now the time of grace is near;  
let us raise our voices.  
what we hoped for now is here;  
all mankind rejoices.

God has taken human form;  
nature stands in wonder.  
Jesus Christ as King is born,  
stealing Satan's thunder!

Therefore let our merry song  
celebrate this story.  
praises echo all along  
to the King of Glory.

**The third reading:** *Look to the east* (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;  
*Thanks be to God.*

**Choir: A babe is born I wys**

*Words: From an old MS in Westminster Abbey Library; Music: F Bainton*

A babe is born I wys  
This world to joy and bliss,  
His joy shall never fade and miss,  
And Jesus is his name.  
On Christmas Day at morn  
This little child was born  
to save us all that were forlorn  
And Jesus is his name.  
On Good Friday so soon,  
To death he was all done,  
Betwix the time of morn and noon  
And Jesus is his name.  
On Easter Day so swythe,  
He rose from death to life  
Top make us all both glad and blythe  
And Jesus is his name.

And on Ascension Day  
To heaven he took his way,  
There to abide for aye and aye,  
And Jesus is his name.

**The fourth reading: *I am the light of the world* (John 3:16-21)**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Hymn: Longing for light, we wait in darkness**

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*
- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.  
*Christ, be our light...*
- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.  
*Christ, be our light...*

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.  
*Christ, be our light...*

5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.  
*Christ, be our light...*

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

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### The Collect

Lord our God, on the first day of creation  
you made the light that scatters all darkness.  
Let Christ, the light of lights hidden from all eternity  
shine at last on your people and free us from the darkness of sin.  
Fill our lives with joy as we go out to welcome your Son at his  
coming.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.  
***Amen***

### Hymn: Lo he comes with clouds descending

1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, 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, with what rapture, 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:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788) and John Cennick (1718–1755)

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 41.

### The Blessing

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for eternal life. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

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

### Organ voluntary

Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme (*BWV 645*) *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Bible reading from [New International Version - UK](#) (NIVUK) Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV®  
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## Notices

### **Advent and Christmas Services at All Saints'**

#### **Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am Morning Prayer *with a nativity theme*

#### **Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:30am Holy Communion

**4:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas**

6:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas (*Repeat*)

#### **Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)**

11:00pm "Midnight" Holy Communion

#### **Friday December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day)**

10:30am Holy Communion for Christmas Day

#### **Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup>**

No services at All Saints' church

**There will be a service of Holy Communion on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am.**

*Morning Prayer is normally said in church on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15am*

**Booking is required for the Carol Service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.** Please book online via the website or by completing a booking form and returning it. If you could come to a 6:30pm repeat of the service, please do say so when you book - this will give us the greatest flexibility to accommodate all of those who want to come along.

**The PCC will meet on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December** at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall and on Zoom. Papers for the meeting have been sent by email to PCC members; printed copies of the papers may be collected from church today.

**The Magazine for December – January 2021** is now available in church and online. This contains details of our Advent and Christmas services. Please take a copy if you don't have one delivered. *Please can distributors collect their bundles of magazines from the church and distribute these as soon as they can.* Thank you to all who distribute *The Magazine* to our community.

**All Saints' Calendar 2021** These are available from Brian Morris 07732 644861, brimorris@sky.com and from Margaret Gamble on 0151 336 7540, £5 each. Enjoy lovely photographs, taken within the parish, throughout 2021.

Rachel Brothwell has generously offered to make and sell **Christmas cakes** in aid of All Saints'. A 6" decorated fruit cake will cost £12 and an 8" decorated fruit cake £15. Please contact Rachel on 07903 275375 to place your order.

Please complete a **Track and Trace form** with your details and leave this in the basket as you leave church today.  
We need to collect the paper forms from all attendees even if you have also scanned the QR code on your phone.

**Please turn over the notice on your pew to show that it has been used.**

**Please take this leaflet home with you after the service.**

**Thank you.**



## Contact information

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