

St. John's, Hythe

'THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S COMING'

ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Sunday 29th November 2020
5:00 pm

Gracious God, may this Advent be a time of turning our faces towards the light, and a space to pause, to reflect and to watch. May we learn to wait in the present, and not just for the future, that every moment may be lived in the presence of the Christ Child, the Lamb of Calvary, the Saviour of the World and to your glory. Amen.

Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Hymn: A great and mighty wonder

**A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure,
the Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure.**

***Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men!'***

**The Word becomes incarnate
and yet remains on high.
And Cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky.**

***Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men!'***

**Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the Infant born in Bethl'em,
the Saviour and the Lord.**

***Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men!'***

**And idol forms shall perish,
and error shall decay,
and Christ shall wield his sceptre,
our Lord and God for ay.**

***Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men!'***

Mega Kai paradoxon thauma Germanus (c.634-c.732)
Translated John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

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.**

Hymn: 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 the 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
he for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the East.
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.**

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11

A Voice Cries in the Wilderness:
Prepare the Way of the Lord

Hymn: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

**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 thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The Second Lesson: Psalm 147:1-6

How Beautiful on the mountains

Hymn: Hills of the North, rejoice

**Hills of the North, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies;
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the sons of earth be blest.**

*Editors of English Praise (1975) based on Charles E Oakley (1832-1865)
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The Third Lesson: Malachi 3:1-6 and 4:1-2

Behold, I shall send my messenger
to prepare the way before me

Hymn: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings!**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit bless, for evermore.**

Jordanis oras praevia Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

Translated John Chandler (1806-1876)

The Fourth Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice and know that the Lord is near.

Hymn: 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 branch of Jesse, draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from the dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell, thy people save.**

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

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

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

**O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from that high mountain clothed in awe,
gavest thy folk the elder Law.**

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

*Latin 13th century, translated by T. A. Lacey (1853-1931)
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Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

**The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!**

**'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!**

**Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever
say,
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria!**

*Birjina gastettabat zegoen
Basque Carol, Charles Bordes (Collector) (1863-1909), Sabine Baring-
Gould (1834-1924)*

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

The Angel promises the Birth of Jesus to
Mary

Hymn: Long ago, prophets knew

**Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his People's burden,
freely love and pardon.**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***

**God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***

**Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?***

**Journey ends! Where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!**

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!***

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
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The Prayers of Intercession

Hymn: 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:
alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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, O come quickly, O come quickly,
alleluia! come, Lord, come!**

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Martin Madan (1726-1790), John
Cennick (1718-1755)*

The Blessing

Sunday 13th December at 5:00 pm
Festival of Carols
“The Joy of Christ’s Coming”

Sunday 3rd January at 5:00 pm
Service of Epiphany Carols
“The Glory of Christ’s Coming”

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