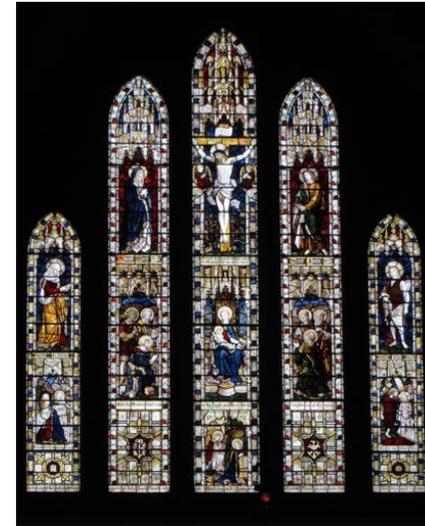


Welcome to St John's



Advent Carols

The promise of
Christ's Coming



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!'***

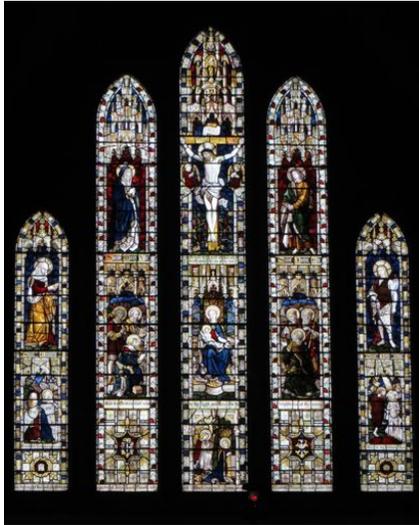
Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the Infant born in Beth'lem,
the Saviour and the Lord.

*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.**

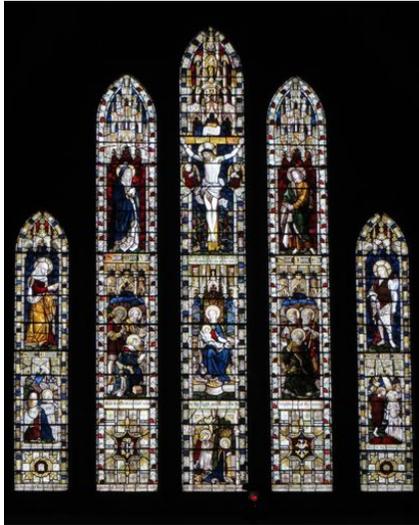
**Stars, keep the watch. When night
is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.**

**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

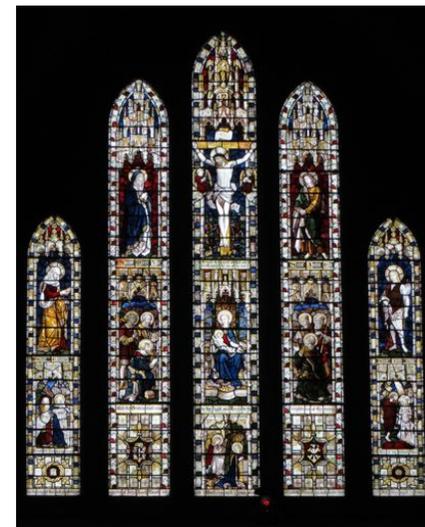
Come, thou long-expected
Jesus, born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

**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.**

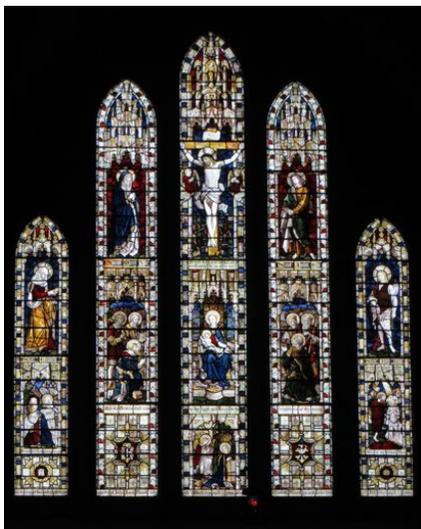
**Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:**

**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)
© Oxford University Press*



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!

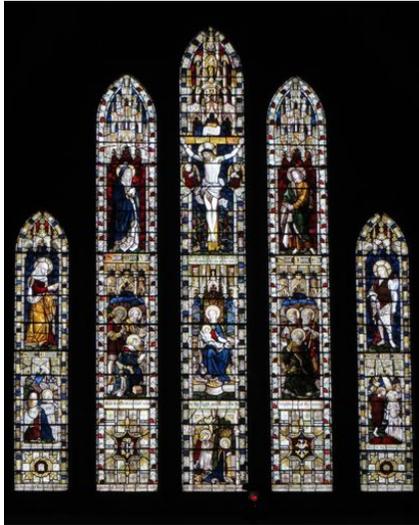
**Then cleansed be every Christian
breast,
and furnished for so great a guest.
Yea, let us each our hearts
prepare
for Christ to come and enter
there.**

**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.***

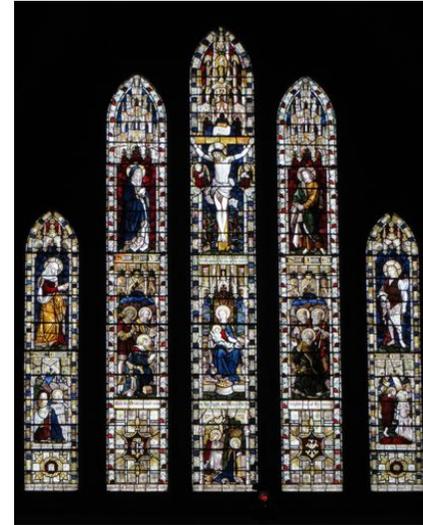
**O Come, thou Lord of David's Key.
The royal door fling wide and free;
safeguard for us the heavenward
road,
and bar the way to death's abode.**

***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)
© Oxford University Press*



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!

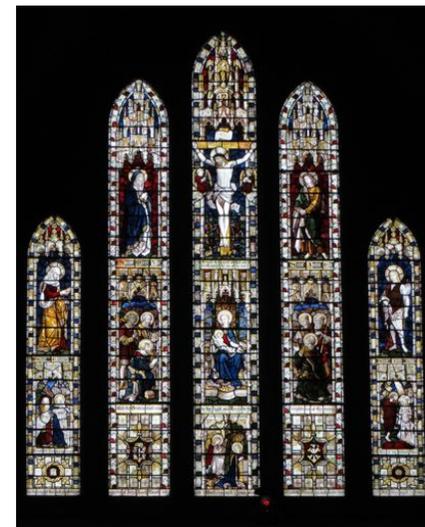
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed
her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she
said,

**'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 gastettobat 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?***

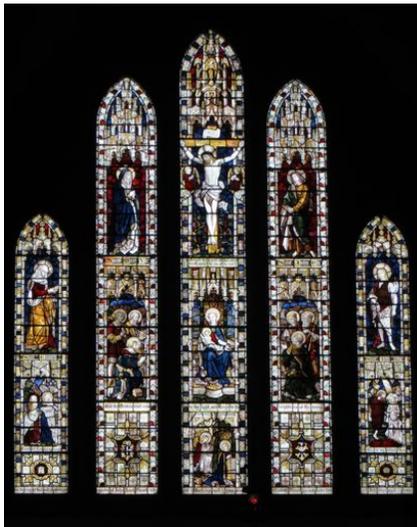
**Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,**

***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)
© 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd



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

