

All Saints' Margaret Street Advent Carol Service



The First Sunday of Advent

3rd December, 2023, 6pm

ORGAN PRELUDE: La Virge et l'Enfant, *from* La Nativité du Seigneur – Olivier Messiaen, 1908-1992

“Conceived of a Virgin, unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Sion! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, just and lowly.”

Candles are lit during the organ prelude. All stand when the bell rings.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Come thou Redeemer of the earth

Choir: Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall,
Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to man displayed.

**O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness glow with new-born light,
No more shall night extinguish day,
Where love's bright beams their power display.**

**O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

(Text: J.M. Neale, 1818-66; Tune: Puer nobis nascitur)

THE INTRODUCTION AND COLLECT

Beloved in Christ: as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring all men and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

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 Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 9.9-10

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

MOTET: Matin Responsory- Palestrina, 1525-94

I look from afar:

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

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come
to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another.

Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

THE SECOND LESSON: Jeremiah 23.5-6

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

MOTET: A tender shoot - Otto Goldschmidt, 1829-1907

A tender shoot has started
Up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted
From Jesse's holy race:
It blooms without a blight,
Blooms in the cold mid-winter,
Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,
From Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us
The branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might
Gave her this Child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

(Text by the composer, tr. William Bartholomew, 1793-1867)

All stand to sing **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.**

*(Text: C. E. Oakley 1832-65; Tune: Little
Cornard)*

THE THIRD LESSON: Psalm 118.19-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

MOTET: Laetentur caeli - William Byrd, 1543-1623

Laetentur coeli, et exultet terra. Jubilate montes laudem,
quia Dominus noster veniet, et pauperum suorum miserebitur.
Orietur in diebus tuis justitia et abundantia pacis. Amen.

*Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice. Let the mountains be joyful with praise,
because our Lord will come, and will show mercy to his poor.
In your days, justice and abundance of peace shall arise. Amen.*

(Text: Isaiah 49.13 and Psalm 71.7, Vulgate)

THE FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 9.2, 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. 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.

MOTET: O thou, the central Orb - Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

O thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the Most High, eternal light
Of this our wintry world; thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith: hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine;
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin:
Our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming ray
To souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

(Text: Henry Ramsden Bramley)

All stand to sing **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, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.**

**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.**

**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.**

(Text: T.A. Lacey, 1853-1931; Tune: Veni Emmanuel)

THE FIFTH LESSON: Isaiah 7.10-15

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.

MOTET: There is a flower - Stanley Vann, 1910-2010

There is a flow'r sprung of a tree, The root there -
-of is called Jesse, A flow'r of price; There is none such paradise.
This flow'r is fair and fresh of hue, It fadeth never, but ever is. Amen.

(Text: John Audelay)

THE SIXTH LESSON: Romans 12.1-2, 13.11-14

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

MOTET: Im Advent – Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Lasset uns frohlocken, es nahet der Heiland,
den Gott uns verheißen.
Der Name des Herrn sei gelobet in Ewigkeit.
Halleluja!

*Let us rejoice! The redeemer is coming, whom the
Lord has promised.
The name of the Lord be praised for ever.
Halleluja!*

(Text by the composer, tr. Barbara Kilpatrick)

All stand to sing **HYMN:**

**Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
the watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying,
Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!
Alleluya!
The wedding song
Swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.**

**Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesu, God's own Son!
Hosanna!
Let us prepare**

**To follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.**

**Every soul in thee rejoices;
From earth and from angelic voices
Be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
Thy presence never more shall leave us,
We stand with angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
The bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluya!
Grant us to raise, to length of days,
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.**

(Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608, tr. F. C. Burkitt, 1864-1935; Tune: J. S. Bach, 1685-1750)

All remain standing for **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25.1-13**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said "The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."

But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Please extinguish your candles now. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar during the following hymn, at which point the bell rings and all kneel:

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:
Alleluya!
God 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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

(Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88; Tune: Helmsley)

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

TANTUM ERGO *is sung by the choir*

Therefore we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes the inward vision clear.

(Setting: Plainsong)

Glory let us give, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honour, might, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who from both with both is One. Amen.

Thou gavest them bread from heaven. **Containing within itself all sweetness.**

Let us pray: O God, who in a wonderful sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy Passion: grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may evermore perceive within ourselves the fruits of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Celebrant blesses the people with the Blessed Sacrament.

All repeat the Divine Praises after the Celebrant:

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her spouse most chaste.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

While the Blessed Sacrament is replaced in the tabernacle, all sing Psalm 117:

Let us adore, for ever, **the most holy Sacrament.**

O praise the Lord, all ye heathen : **praise him, all ye nations. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.**

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.

Let us adore, for ever, **the most holy Sacrament.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Fantasy on 'Helmsley' – Kenneth Leighton, 1929-1988

A retiring collection is raised. Please make donations by tapping your debit or credit card on the machine or by scanning the QR code.

The bar will open for one hour after Benediction.

