

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET



ADVENT SUNDAY

30th November, 2025

6pm

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND BWV 659

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

§ *Candles are lit during the prelude. All stand at the bell. The choir sings the first verse.*

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 Wisdom from on high!

Who madest all in earth and sky,

Creating man from dust and clay:

To us reveal salvation's way. *Rejoice!*

O come, O come, Adonai,

Who in thy glorious majesty

From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,

Gavest thy folk the ancient law. *Rejoice!*

O come, thou Root of Jesse! Draw

The quarry from the lion's claw;

From those dread caverns of the grave,

From nether hell, thy people save. *Rejoice!*

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!*

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!*

O come, Desire of nations!

Show Thy kingly reign on earth below;

Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,

Restore the ruin of our fall. *Rejoice!*

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.

Cologne 1710, based on the Ancient Advent Antiphons

Tr T.A. Lacey, 1853-1931

VENI EMMANUEL

Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890

INTRODUCTION & 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. And let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring all people 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.

Let us pray.

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.*

LAETENTUR CAELI

William Byrd, 1540-1623

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

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.

Is.49:13; Ps.72:7

FIRST READING *Genesis 28.10-17*

Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

§ *All stand.*

**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.

C.E. Oakley, 1832-1865

LITTLE CORNARD
Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

§ *All sit.*

SECOND READING *Isaiah 35*

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

CANITE TUBA

Hieronymus Praetorius, 1560-1629

Canite tuba in Sion, vocate gentes annuntiate populis et dicite: Ecce Deus salvator noster adveniet. Annuntiate et auditum facite loquimini et clamate: Ecce Deus salvator noster adveniet.

Blow the trumpet in Sion, address the nations, declare to the people and say: Behold, God our Saviour draws nigh. Declare, make heard by speaking and shout: Behold, God our Saviour draws nigh.

§ *All sit.*

THIRD READING *Isaiah 40.1-11*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, what shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

OSTENDE NOBIS

Howard Skempton, b. 1947

Alleluia. Ostende nobis domine misericordiam tuam et salutare tuum da nobis. Deus tu conversus vivificabis nos et plebs tua laetabitur in te. Alleluia.

Alleluia. Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation. Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us, that thy people may rejoice in thee? Alleluia.

Psalm 85.6-7

§ *All stand.*

**ON Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us all 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.**

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749

Tr John Chandler, 1808-1876

WINCHESTER NEW

Adapted from a chorale in

Musicalisches Hand-Buch Hamburg 1690

§ *All sit.*

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. Come quickly...*

*Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Come quickly...*

FOURTH READING *From a sermon on the Annunciation*

You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us. The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life. Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race. Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word. Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear

to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it unto me according to thy word.

St Bernard of Clairvaux, 1090-1153

ANNUNCIATION

Cecilia McDowall, b.1951

*Salvation to all that will is nigh;
That All, which always is all everywhere,
Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must bear,
Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but die,
Lo, faithful virgin, yields Himself to lie
In prison, in thy womb; and though He there
Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He will wear,
Taken from thence, flesh, which death's force may try.
Ere by the spheres time was created, thou
Wast in His mind, who is thy Son and Brother;
Whom thou conceivst, conceived; yea thou art now
Thy Maker's maker, and thy Father's mother;
Thou hast light in dark, and shutst in little room,
Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb.*

John Donne, 1572-1631

§ *All stand.*

THE LORD whom earth and sea and sky
Adore and praise and magnify,
Who o'er their threefold fabric reigns,
The Virgin's spotless womb contains.

And he whose will is ever done
By moon and seas, by stars and sun,
Is borne upon a maiden's breast,
Whom God's foreseeing grace possessed.

How blest that Mother, in whose shrine
The very Word of God divine,
The maker of the earth and sky,
Was pleased in fleshly form to lie.

Blest in the message Gabriel brought,
Blest in the work the Spirit wrought,
Blest evermore, who brought to birth
The long-Desired of all the earth.

Venantius Fortunatus, 530-609

Tr J.M. Neale, 1818-1866

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

§ *All sit.*

FIFTH READING *Romans 13.9-14*

If there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh.

§ *All stand.*

**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.

Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

Tr F. C. Burkitt, 1864-1935

WACHET AUF

Philip Nicolai, *harmony by* J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

§ *All remain standing.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1.67-79*

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him

without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

§ *All extinguish their candles. When the bell sounds, all kneel before the Blessed Sacrament.*

**LO! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya! Alleluya! 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, 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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

HELMSLEY
T. Olivers, 1725-1799

*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.*

*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.*

St Thomas Aquinas, c.1225-1274

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.**

All repeat the Divine Praises:

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 Paraclete.

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.

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.**

§ *All stand.*

FUGA SOPRA IL MAGNIFICAT BWV 733

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Welcome to All Saints', especially if you are visiting tonight. Our Parish Bar, situated directly opposite the church doors, will be open for an hour after the liturgy. All welcome.

Friday, 19th December
CHRISTMAS ORGAN CONCERT
with Jeremiah Stephenson
7pm | Tickets £15

Sunday, 21st December
NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
6pm | Byrd | Martin | Messiaen | Moore | Poulenc

Wednesday, 24th December
CHRISTMAS EVE
6.30pm | First High Mass of Christmas
11pm | Midnight Mass

Thursday, 25th December
CHRISTMAS DAY
8.30am | Low Mass
11am | High Mass

Sunday, 4th January 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
11am | High Mass
6pm | Epiphany Carols



*Collection is taken at the card reader at the back of church,
or by using this QR code. Thank you for your support.*