

NEW COLLEGE CHAPEL



A Service of Readings and Music for the Season of Advent

Webcast Version

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 2017

5.30 p.m.

Advent is a time of waiting. In tonight's service, we begin with God's cry into the void: 'Let there be light!' But the light of creation is shadowed by the reality of human frailty and dying; we are created in light but we are also the people who sit in darkness, our outer nature wasting away. And so we wait for the dawning of love in our hearts, as all the earth waited for the birth of the child Jesus. We look back to that birth two thousand years ago, and forward to the time when love comes again and will wipe every tear from our eyes. We wait in darkness, we wait in hope, we wait for renewal, we wait for the eternity of love to break into our frail mortal time and declare that love makes all things new.

On the Mystery of the Incarnation

It's when we face for a moment
the worst our kind can do, and shudder to know
the taint in our own selves, that awe
cracks the mind's shell and enters the heart:
not to a flower, not to a dolphin,
to no innocent form
but to this creature vainly sure
it and no other is god-like, God
(out of compassion for our ugly
failure to evolve) entrusts,
as guest, as brother,
the Word.

Denise Levertov (1923-1997)

..... ❧❧.....

ORDER OF SERVICE

The congregation remains seated as the choir and clergy process from the vestry into the antechapel, where the choir sings the plainsong hymn.

*Conditor alme siderum
aeterna lux credentium
Christe redemptor omnium
exaudi preces supplicum.*

Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, redeemer, save us all,
and hear thy servants when they call.

*Qui condolens interitu
mortis perire saeculum
salvasti mundum languidum
donans reis remedium.*

Thou, grieving that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
hast found the medicine, full of grace,
to save and heal a ruined race.

*Vergente mundi vespere
uti sponsus de thalamo
egressus honestissima
Virginis matris clausula.*

Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening tide,
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the spotless victim all divine.

*Cuius forti potentiae
genu curvantur omnia
caelestia, terrestria
nutu fatentur subdita.*

At whose dread name, majestic now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
and things celestial thee shall own,
and things terrestrial Lord alone.

*Sit, Christe rex piissime
tibi Patrique gloria
cum Spiritu Paraclito
in sempiterna saecula.
Amen.*

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.

*Office hymn, 7th century;
trans. J.M. Neale (1818-1866)*

FIRST READING
Let there be light

Read by the Assistant Chaplain
Genesis 1.1-5

All stand to sing the hymn, as the choir and clergy process into the chapel.

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 with awe
Gavest thy folk the elder law.

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

All sit.

SECOND READING

Wait for the Lord

Read by the Warden

Psalm 27.1-4, 7-9a, 13-14

MOTET

William Byrd (1539/40-1623)

Vigilate, nescitis enim quando dominus domus veniat, sero,
an media nocte, an galli cantu, an mane.

Vigilate ergo, ne cum venerit repente, inveniat vos
dormientes.

Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico: vigilate.

*Watch ye therefore — for ye not know when the master of the house
cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the
morning — lest coming, he find find you sleeping.*

And what I say unto you, I say to unto all: watch.

*Mark 13.35-37;
Cantiones Sacrae (1589)*

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.

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 with 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 Oxford Book of Carols*

THIRD READING
See the joy from the East

Read by a Fellow
Baruch 4.36-5.9

CAROL

Michael Fleming (1928-2006)

Kindle a light to lighten the darkness
Kindle a light each nation and race:
God in the poor is coming to meet us
Kindle a light to shine on his face.

Kindle a light to lighten the darkness
Kindle a light for all who despair:
God in the poor is coming to judge us
Kindle a light with fasting and prayer.

Kindle a light to lighten the darkness
Kindle a light in places of shame:
God in the poor is coming to heal us
Kindle a light with hope in its flame.

Kindle a light to lighten the darkness
Kindle a light for sorrow to cease:
God in the poor is coming to free us
Kindle a light for justice and peace.

Christ is coming,
Coming in judgement, in truth and in grace,
Meet him and greet him, and share his embrace.

Michael Forster (b. 1946)

FOURTH READING
A light to the nations

Read by an undergraduate
Isaiah 42.5-9

All stand for the hymn.

Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain,
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealèd
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring;
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

Prudentius (b. 348)

All sit.

FIFTH READING

The birth of John the Baptist foretold

Read by a chorister parent

Luke 1.5-25

MOTET

Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

A tender shoot hath 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 bleak 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.

*German carol, 'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen', 17th century;
trans. William Bartholomew (1793-1867)*

Salve Regina, mater misericordiae,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve!
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae,
ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes,
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eja ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte
et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis, post hoc exilium, ostende,
O pia, O dulcis virgo Maria.

*Hail, Holy Queen, mother of mercy,
[Hail] our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve,
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

*Antiphon to the Blessed Virgin Mary
from Trinity to Advent*

SIXTH READING
The Annunciation

Read by a member of the school staff
Luke 1.26-38

CAROL

Trad. Basque, arr. Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

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 Emanuel, 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, Emanuel, 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!*

*Traditional Basque,
paraphrased by S. Baring Gould (1834-1924)*

CAROL

Dom Gregory Murray (1905-1992)

*Of a rose, a lovely rose,
Of a rose is all my song.*

The angel came from heavenly tower
To greet Mary with great honour,
And said that she should bear the flower
That should break the fiendes bond.

The flower sprung in Bethlehem
That is both bright and sheen.
The rose is Mary, heavenly queen,
Out of her bosom the blossom sprung.

Pray we to her with great honour,
She that bare that blessed flower.
She be our help and our succour,
And shield us from the fiendes bond.

English carol, 14th century

SEVENTH READING

Mary visits Elizabeth

Read by a chorister

Luke 1.39-45

Vox dicentis: clama. Et dixit: quid clamabo?
 Omnis caro foenum, et omnis gloria eius quasi flos agri.
 Vere foenum est populus; exsiccatum est foenum, et cecidit flos;
 verbum autem Domini nostri manet in aeternum.
 Super montem excelsum ascende, tu qui evangelizas Sion; exalta
 in fortitudine vocem tuam, qui evangelizas Ierusalem; exalta,
 noli timere.
 Dic civitatibus Iuda: ecce Deus vester: ecce Dominus Deus in
 fortitudine veniet, et brachium eius dominabitur, ecce merces
 eius cum eo, et opus illius coram illo.
 Sicut pastor gregem suum pascet; in brachio suo congregabit
 agnos, et in sinu suo levabit; foetas ipse portabit.

*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.
 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.*

Isaiah 40.6-11

EIGHTH READING

The birth of John the Baptist

Read by an undergraduate

Luke 1.57-67

All stand.

CANTICLE

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he hath visited, and
redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty 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 hands of
all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers: and to
remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham:
that he would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hands 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: for 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: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

*Luke 1.68-79;
Benedictus from the Book of Common Prayer*

All remain standing for the reading and hymn.

NINTH READING
Do not lose heart

Read by the Dean of Divinity
II Corinthians 4.1, 5.7, 16.18

**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!**

All remain standing.

PRAYERS

Dean of Divinity Let us pray that we may watch faithfully until the coming of our Lord.

Almighty God, give us grace
to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore.

Amen.

The congregation remains standing as the clergy and choir leave the chapel.

ORGAN MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J. S. Bach
TW

Paul Brough, Acting Organist
Timothy Wakerell, Assistant Organist
Josef Laming, Senior Organ Scholar
Charles Maxtone-Smith, Junior Organ Scholar

Erica Longfellow, Dean of Divinity
Susan Bridge, Assistant Chaplain