

A Processional Service of Readings and Carols for Advent



Sunday 27 November 2022

5.30pm

Welcome to Manchester Cathedral

Welcome to the Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George in the heart of the City of Manchester. The building is the old mediaeval parish Church of Manchester. King Henry V first granted it Collegiate status in 1421 and it became Manchester's Cathedral on the creation of the Diocese of Manchester in 1847. It is believed that there has been a church on or near this site for over a thousand years.

Introduction to the service

The Cathedral Chapter welcomes you to this celebration at the beginning of Advent. In many ways Advent Sunday has become lost amongst the numerous traditional carol services that frequently commence at the beginning of December, if not earlier. The word Advent derives from a Latin root which means 'coming' or 'arrival', and the season was a development of the Western church as a preparation for the festival of the Nativity.

Advent, however, marks the coming of Christ in a double manner: first, in his incarnation as the babe of Bethlehem, and also in his 'second coming' at the end of time. Our service tonight helps us to reflect on the patriarchs, the prophets and the Virgin Mary, and their role in preparing for the coming of Christ. Our hope is that you will discover peace, and find time to reflect on Christ's coming into your own life as you prepare for the great feast of the Incarnation.

'In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'.

John 1: 4-5

Safeguarding

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook. We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.

Live streaming

Please note that most acts of worship in Manchester Cathedral are now live streamed. Although cameras are focused on those leading worship, please be aware that your image may be inadvertently captured and streamed. If you would like further information on the position of the camera at a particular act of worship, please ask Cathedral Staff upon arrival.

Visiting Manchester Cathedral

For your personal safety, the Dean and Chapter strongly encourage you to wear masks and to use the hand sanitisers provided when visiting the Cathedral.

Gift Aid

After the service there will be a collection for the work and mission of the Cathedral. If you would like the Cathedral to reclaim the tax that you have paid on the donation, at no cost to yourself, please use the Gift Aid envelope that is with this order of service.

Have you turned off your mobile phone?

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

Photography

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

Musicians

The Cathedral Voluntary Choir is conducted by
Geoffrey Woollatt, Sub-Organist

The organ is played by
Christopher Stokes, Organist & Master of the Choristers

Large-print copies of this booklet are also available

Prelude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J S Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation waits in silence as the procession lines up under the tower

Matin Responory

sung by the Choir

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,

Go ye out to meet him and say:

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

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come;

To reign over thy people Israel.

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

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?

*Adapted from a Magnificat by
G P da Palestrina (c1525-94)*

*Words translated from the
First Responory of Advent Sunday
in the Office of Matins*

All stand

Hymn *during which the Choir and clergy process into the Nave*

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.*

Lower voices 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.
Refrain

Higher voices O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Refrain

Lower voices O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.
Refrain

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with awe
Gavest thy folk the elder law.
Refrain

*15th century French Melody
Arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

*18th century
Translated by T A Lacey (1853-1931)*

All sit

The Bidding Prayer

led by Canon Nigel Ashworth

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

We are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's Kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his Kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope.

And as we seek to renew our allegiance to God's loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his grace and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death and war.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his Kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

All

**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.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting,
now and at all times,

All

Amen.

Anthem

sung by the Choir

Adam lay y-bounden,
Bounden in a bond:
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkés finden
Written in theiré book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne haddé never our lady
Abeen heaven's queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we may singen:
Deo gracias!

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Anonymous 15th century

First Lesson

Isaiah 11. 1-5
read by Geoffrey Woollatt

The prophet speaks of the righteous Judge who will come from the line of David

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

sung by the Choir

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu; *Alleluia*.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space; *Res miranda*. (*Wonderful thing*)

And by that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three, *Pari forma*. (*Equal in form*)

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gaudeamus.
(*Glory to God in the highest: Let us rejoice*)

Now leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth; *Transeamus*. (*Let us follow*)

*Alleluia, res miranda,
Pari forma, gaudeamus,
Transeamus.*

Kathryn Rose (b 1980)

Anonymous 15th century

Second Lesson

I Thessalonians 5. 1-11
read by Kathy England

The call to be vigilant in preparation for the coming of the Lord

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness, So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

sung by the Choir

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum: aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.

Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Drop down ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: Let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.

Lord, thou hast blessed thy land: Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

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.

William Byrd (1543-1623)

Isaiah 45. 8

Psalms 85. 1

Third Lesson

Micah 4. 1-4

read by Arabella Hamilton

The prophet's vision of the last days, when the nations will be judged

In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into the ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

sung by the Choir

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 day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Charles Wood (1886-1926)

Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)

Fourth Lesson

Luke 4. 14-21

read by Kathryn Simpson

The words of the Prophet Isaiah are fulfilled by Jesus Christ

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Thanks be to God.

All stand

Organ Music

During which the Procession moves into the Quire

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

All sit

Fifth Lesson

Malachi 3. 1-7

read by Graham Curtis

The day of God's appearing brings judgement and cleansing

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?"

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

sung by the Choir

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight
and the rough places shall be made plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.

And the voice said cry, (What shall I cry?)
all flesh is grass, and the goodness thereof
is as a flower that is in the field.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth,
but the word of the Lord shall stand fast forever.

O Zion, that bringeth glad tidings,
get thee up into the mountains.

O Jerusalem, that bringeth glad tidings
lift up thy voice with strength
and say unto Judah, "behold thy God".

Michael Wise (1648-87)

Isaiah 40. 3-9

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 3. 1-11
read by Megan Warner

The proclamation of John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

sung by the Choir

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has visited his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up for us a mighty saviour
in the house of David his servant,
as he promised by the lips of holy men,
those who were his prophets from of old.
A saviour who would free us from our foes,
from the hands of all who hate us.
So his love for our fathers is fulfilled
and his holy covenant remembered.
He swore to Abraham our father to grant us,
that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes,
we might serve him in holiness and justice
all the days of our life in his presence.
As for you little child,
you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
You shall go ahead of the Lord
to prepare his ways before him.
To make known to his people their salvation
through forgiveness of all their sins,
the loving kindness of the heart of our God
who visits us like the dawn from on high.
He will give light to those in darkness,
those who dwell in the shadow of death,
and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

James MacMillan (b 1959)

Luke 1. 68-79

All stand

Hymn

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 blest, for evermore.

*Adapted from a chorale in Musicalisches
Hand-Buch Hamburg 1690*

*Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
Translated by John Chandler (1808-76)*

All sit

Seventh Lesson

Luke I. 39-49
read by June Worsley

Mary shares her joyful news with Elizabeth

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Thanks be to God.

All stand

Anthem

sung by the Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit rejoiceth in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

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.

Plainsong Service in G
Percy Whitlock (1903-46)

Luke 1. 46-55

All sit

Eighth Lesson

John 3. 1-8
read by Judith Krauss

Jesus speaks with Nicodemus of the 'birth from above'

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Thanks be to God.

All stand

Hymn

during which the Procession moves behind the High Altar

Hills of the north, rejoice,
River and mountain-spring,
Hark to the advent voice;
Valley and lowland, sing.
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
He judgement brings and victory.

Isles of the southern seas,
Deep in your coral caves
Pent be each warring breeze,
Lulled be your restless waves:
He comes to reign in boundless sway,
And makes your wastes his great highway.

Lands of the east, awake,
Soon shall your sons be free;
The sleep of ages break,
And rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and grey,
Has dawned the everlasting day.

Shores of the utmost west,
Ye that have waited long,
Unvisited, unblest,
Break forth to swelling song;
High raise the note, that Jesus died,
Yet lives and reigns, the Crucified.

Shout, while ye journey home,
Songs be in every mouth;
Lo, from the north we come,
From east and west and south:
City of God, the bond are free,
We come to live and reign in thee!

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

C E Oakley (1832-65)

Responsory

led by Canon Nigel Ashworth

My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:
In your word is my hope.
All **My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:
In your word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you,
so that you shall be feared.
All **My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:
In your word is my hope**

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
All **My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:
In your word is my hope.**

Anthem

sung by the Choir

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 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.

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.

Besañon Carol
Arranged by Barry Ferguson (b 1942)

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

Advent Collect and Blessing

Canon Nigel Ashworth

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.

All **Amen.**

Go forth in the world in peace:
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Postlude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J S Bach

During the postlude the Choir and clergy depart

After the service there is a retiring collection for the work and aims of the Cathedral.

Please take this order of service away with you to reflect upon the readings, music and prayers and as a reminder of your visit.