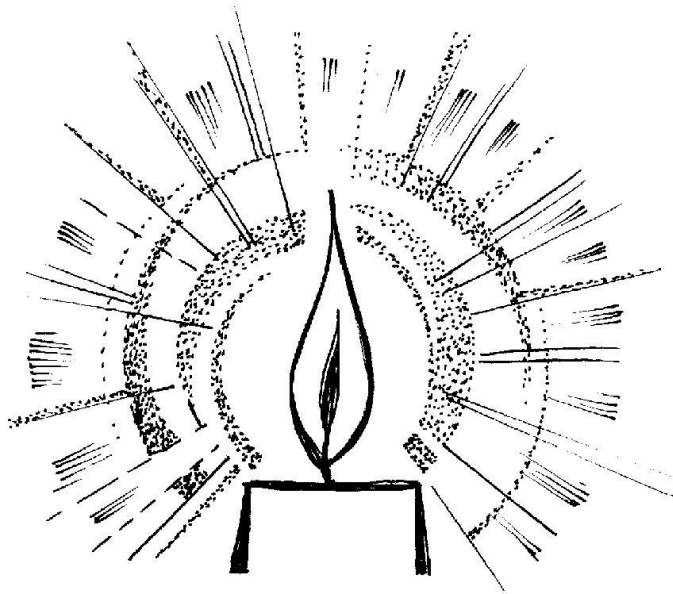


Lincoln Cathedral



An Advent Procession



Saturday, 27th November 2021

6.00 pm

The Eve of Advent Sunday

Introduction

This Advent Procession marks the beginning of the Church's year: a year that begins with hope, with the promise that God's light will dawn into the darkness, pain and fear of our world. Looking back on the year that has passed in our own nation and in the world, we know ourselves to be people dwelling in darkness, touched by uncertainty and fear. Yet as we gather to celebrate Advent, we also know ourselves to be the people to whom Christ has come: the people whose lives can be shaped by the light of God's grace. And so we tell again the story of hope: the creation of the world in which we live and the promises God has made to his people: promises which began to come to their fulfilment in Jesus, and will be finally fulfilled at the end of the age.

That hope has been expressed since the early days of the Church through the Advent antiphons, seven prayers which urge God with eager longing to "come and save the human race, which you made." These are prayers of hope and expectation, of trust in God's promises and of longing for the day when all will be made new in Christ. Six of these prayers will shape our worship this evening, as we move through the cathedral towards the east end, a procession in which we enact both our drawing near to God and our hope in the dawning of God's new day, in which God brings light into our lives and will meet us with love and grace.

We symbolise this dawning of love and grace through the light which gradually dawns in the cathedral through the service: light which begins with the single flame of the Advent wreath, and which spreads through the cathedral, light which represents the light of God's love, revealed at Christmas, slowly breaking into the darkness of our world. As light triumphs over darkness inside the cathedral, we pray in hope and expectation that God's grace will dawn upon each of us, gathered here, and into the dark places of the world.

Acknowledgements

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Welcome to Lincoln Cathedral

We are delighted to welcome you to Lincoln Cathedral for this service. Whether you are a visitor, a newcomer or a regular, we are glad to be worshipping with you this evening.

If you need any help or directions (about the service, the facilities or anything else) please ask a steward wearing a blue sash. They will be pleased to help you.

A collection will be taken during the service. Please contribute towards the life and work of the cathedral.

This order of service is available in larger print.
Please ask a verger or a steward
if you would like a copy.



An Advent Procession

The service begins at the west end of the cathedral. As the lights are dimmed, please stand and turn to face the unlit Advent Wreath at the back of the nave.

The choir and clergy enter in silence.

*The choir sings **Matin Responsory** by G. P. Palestrina*

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 ledest 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?

The Advent Wreath is lit. The dean says:

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you.

The grace and peace of God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All **and also with you.**

The choir sings the first of the Advent Antiphons.

Antiphon: O Sapientia

*O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the most High,
and reachest from one end to another, mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things:
come and teach us the way of prudence.*

Dean

We are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's kingdom: a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem and a coming we await when God gathers up all things in Christ. In our worship, let us reflect on the Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of brokenness, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which Christ beckons us.

And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. As we worship, let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

HYMN

The procession moves to the front of the nave.

All **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 earth displayed.**

**From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds,
runs out his course to death and hell,
returns on God's high throne to dwell.**

**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.**

*Words: St Ambrose (340-97)
tr. John Mason Neale and others
Tune: Puer nobis nascitur*

Please sit.

CREATION

Antiphon: O Rex Gentium

*O King of the Nations, and their Desire;
the Cornerstone, who makest both one:
come, and save humankind, whom thou formedst of clay.*

First Reading

Genesis 1: 1-5, 2: 4b-9

read by Josie Moreton

Second Reading

Romans 8: 18-25

read by Nic Beemster

*The choir sings **Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars** by Jonathan Dove*

Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning. (*Amos 5:8*)

Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
the night is light about me. (*Psalm 139*)

HYMN

Creator of the stars of night
thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all
regard thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save a ruined race
with healing gifts of heavenly grace.

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening-tide;
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
and things in heaven and earth shall own
that thou art Lord and King alone.

To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our judge in that tremendous day,
preserve us, while we dwell below
from every onslaught of the foe.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

*Words: from the Latin,
tr. John Mason Neale and others.
Tune: Conditor alme*

Please sit.

THE PROMISE OF A MESSIAH

Antiphon: O Radix Jesse

*O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people,
at whom kings shall shut their mouths,
to whom the Gentiles shall seek:
come and deliver us, and tarry not.*

Third Reading
read by Micky Philp

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Fourth Reading
read by Lindsey Sutton

Luke 1: 26-35

*The choir sings **E'en so Lord Jesus** by Paul Manz.*

Peace be to you and grace from him
who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
that we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,
the Lord, Almighty God,
who was, and is, and is to come;
Sing Holy, Holy Lord.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
for Christ is coming, is coming soon,
for Christ is coming soon.

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
and night shall be no more;
they need no light nor lamp nor sun,
for Christ will be their All!

HYMN

During the hymn, the procession moves into St Hugh's Choir. As you sing, please follow the choir and clergy, using all three gates and following the directions of the stewards. A COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN AS THE CONGREGATION MOVE THROUGH THE CHOIR GATES.

All **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 forever,
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.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-88

Tune: Cross of Jesus

Please sit.

Vespers for the beginning of Advent

JESUS THE MESSIAH

Psalm 27, verses 1 to 7

Dominus illuminatio

THE Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear: the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh : they stumbled and fell.

Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid : and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require : even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle : yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

And now shall he lift up mine head : above mine enemies round about me.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness : I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.

Stand

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.

Fifth Reading

read by Richard Lindsay

Isaiah 42: 5-9

Sixth Reading

read by Lesley Kirrage

Luke 4: 16-20

Antiphon: O Emmanuel

*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation:
come and save us O Lord, our God.*

*The choir sings the setting of the **Magnificat** by Herbert Howells (St Johns), during which the altar is censed and the congregation's candles are lit:*

**My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath
rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
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.**

The antiphon is repeated following the Magnificat.

HYMN

During the hymn, the procession moves to St Hugh's Shrine (Retrochoir). As you sing, please follow the choir and clergy, moving through the north choir aisle into the retrochoir area. The choir gather in front of the statue of Mary.

All **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...

*Words: Cologne 1710, based on the Ancient Advent
antiphons,*

tr. Thomas Alexander Lacey (1853-1931) and others

Tune: Veni Emmanuel

*Please make use of the seating in the Shrine area if you would prefer to sit for the
final section of the service.*

Antiphons at the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE SECOND COMING

Antiphon: O Virgo virginum

*O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?
for neither before thee was any like thee,
nor shall there be after.
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?
The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.*

During the singing of this antiphon incense is offered at the statue of Mary, in recognition of her role as the bearer of the incarnate Christ, the light of the world.

Seventh Reading
read by Wendy Lloyd

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Eighth Reading
read by John Davies

Revelation 21: 1-7

*The choir sings **Vigilate** by William Byrd*

*Vigilate, nescitis enim quando dominus domus veniat,
sero, an media nocte, an gallicantu, an mane.
Vigilate ergo, ne cum venerit repente, inveniat vos dormientes.
Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico: vigilate.*

Watch therefore, for you know not when the lord of the house cometh,
at evening, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning:
watch therefore, lest coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.
And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch.

HYMN

All

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
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,
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: Helmsley

COLLECT

Dean Let us pray.

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.**

Antiphon: O Oriens

*O Dayspring, Brightness of Light everlasting,
and Sun of righteousness:
come, and enlighten them that sit in darkness,
and the shadow of death.*

BLESSING

Dean The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

May God the Father,
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.
All **Amen.**

May God the Son,
who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
All **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you to bring forth the fruits of holiness.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Le Monde dans l'attente du Sauveur (Symphonie-Passion) Marcel Dupré

Please join us for mulled wine in the Chapter House after the service – please follow the directions of the stewards.