

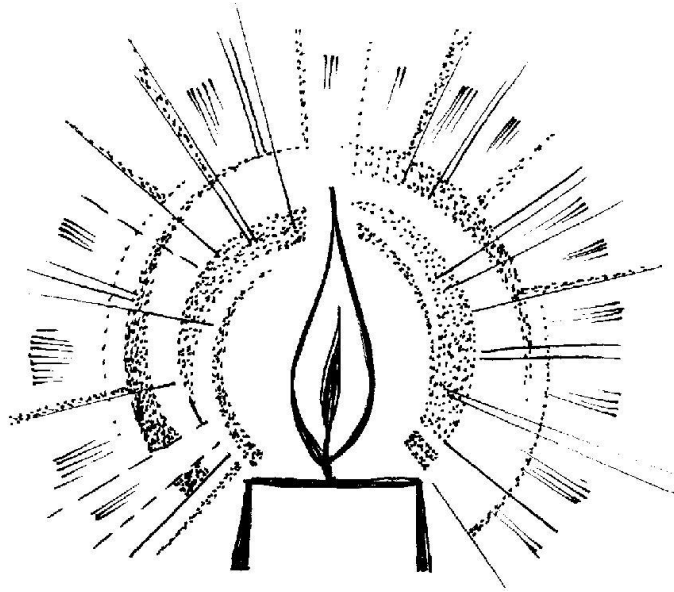
Lincoln Cathedral

Yesterday, Today, Forever

Enduring faith, inspiring stories, living history



An Advent Procession



Saturday 30th November 2024

6pm

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.

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 vergers or a steward
if you would like a copy.



ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE: Chorale Prelude, 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland' [BWV 659] *J.S. Bach*

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.

INTROIT

*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 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?

The Advent Wreath is lit. The Dean then greets the congregation, saying

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.*

The Dean introduces the service.

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
Music: Michael Praetorius*

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 Chris Jones

Second Reading

Romans 8.18-25

read by Muriel Robinson

ANTHEM

*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*

Please stand.

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: Conditore 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 Catherine Perry

Luke 1.26-35

ANTHEM

*The choir sings **This is the truth sent from above**, traditional English folk tune,
collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams and arranged by Stephen Cleobury.*

Please stand.

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 MOVES 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
Music: John Stainer*

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.*

Please 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.*

Please sit.

Fifth Reading
read by John Davies

Isaiah 42.5-9

Sixth Reading
read by Jeanette Davies

Luke 4.16-20

Please stand.

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** in the key of E by Herbert Murrill,
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.

Please kneel or sit.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dean Awaiting his coming in glory,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who 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.**

COLLECT

The Dean prays the Collect for Advent to which all respond
Amen.

Please sit.

ANTHEM

*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, inveniatis 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.

Mark 13.35-37

Please stand.

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
Music: Traditional French melody, collected by Thomas Helmore*

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 Ian South

Revelation 21.1-7

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)

Music: T. Olivers

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.**

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.*

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.*

Acknowledgements

*Extracts from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,
and Common Worship: Times and Seasons material from which is included in this service
are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2006 respectively.
Reproduction of the hymns falls within the provisions of either CCL 901658 or Calamus 1455.*