

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 26th November 2022 at 6 pm
Sunday 27th November 2022 at 3 pm

ADVENT

Advent is the vocative season of the Church's year. Acknowledging that the human soul can only be healed from outside itself, by being loved and held, the prayers, hymns and anthems of Advent call out on God to come and save us from ourselves and our propensity to injure the world and each other.

You can hear this longing to be made complete in what are known as the 'O Antiphons'. These are ancient poetic invocations to God. They cry out to our Creator, praying that we might finally be seen for who we really are, full of shadow and light. This recognition is known as 'judgement' and it is, ultimately, a liberating theme of the Advent season. At the same time we ask that we be embraced with a mercy that will lead us into a fresh and hopeful future. Advent is therefore a time of attentiveness and patience, watching and waiting, as we try to tune our hearts to the harmonies of heaven, alert to God's presence amongst us.

For the Christian all things are as yet unfinished. The pattern of this Advent service in its four sections reflects faith's growing anticipation, both of the first coming of Christ and of that day when the prayer 'Thy Kingdom come' is finally and fully answered.

Sunday's service is being broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

We are joined by Anna Ryan (flute) and Oliver Wass (harp).

Please note that rubrics asking you to stand are only for those who are able to.



The Chapel is fitted with a hearing induction loop for those who are hearing-impaired.

The cover illustration—of the Last Judgment—is from a manuscript held in the College library (MS N.24 f.174r).

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Played by Alex Robson:

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren
(Fugue on the Magnificat) (BWV 753)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

O Antiphon Sequence

Cecilia McDowall
(b. 1951)

1. O Sapientia
2. O Adonai
3. O Radix Jesse
4. O Clavis David
5. O Oriens
6. O Rex Gentium
7. O Emmanuel

Played by George Herbert:

Oriens *

Anna Semple
(b. 1997)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Gottes Sohn ist kommen (BWV 600)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Prélude (Trois Pièces)

Nadia Boulanger
(1887–1979)

Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn (BWV 601)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (BWV 645)

Johann Sebastian Bach

* *This work was commissioned by the Master and Fellows, with support from the Herbert Howells Organ Music Fund.*

ORDER OF SERVICE

*You are invited to join in the spoken texts printed in **bold**.*

Please remain seated as the Choir sings the opening carol in the Ante-Chapel.

INTROIT: ADVENT CALENDAR

He will come like last leaf's fall.
He will come.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to bone,
and earth waves choking on the mould, the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
He will come.
One morning when the shrinking earth opens on mist,
to find itself arrested in the net of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
He will come.
One evening when the bursting red December sun
draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come.
He will come like child.

Words *Rowan Williams*
(b. 1950)

Music *Philip Ledger*
(1937–2012)

This work was composed in memory of Dr George Guest (College Organist 1951–1991), who died twenty years ago this month.

Please stand to sing the hymn, during which the Choir and Clergy move to their stalls.

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* [repeat refrain after each verse.]

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.

O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
gavest thy folk the ancient law.

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.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone
far from the face of God's dear Son.

Words *Cologne 1710, based on the
ancient Advent Antiphons*
Translation by Thomas Alexander Lacey
(1853–1931)
and others

Tune VENI EMMANUEL
*Melody adapted from a French Missal
by Thomas Helmore
(1811–1890)*
Descant by David Hill
(b. 1957)

Please remain standing.

Please turn the page quietly.

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ's nativity as also for the day when he shall come to judge the hearts of us all. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the vision of God's perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us. In word and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that God's kingdom will come; and, with John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church.

Let us then pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

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.

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

Please sit.

CAROL: THERE IS NO ROSE

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. *[A marvellous thing]*

By that rose we may well see
there be one God in persons three: Pares forma. *[Equal in form]*

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis deo: Gaudeamus. *[Let us rejoice]*

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
and follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus. *[Let us follow]*

Words *Anonymous, 14th century*

Music *Simon Preston*
(1938–2022)

Please stand.

Please turn the page quietly.

I: THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT

SENTENCE

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

Minister The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:

All **And all flesh shall see it together.**

COLLECT

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 Ghost, now and ever.
Amen.

O SAPIENTIA

O Wisdom, which hast come out of the mouth of the Most High,
and mightily orderest all things:
come and teach us the way of wisdom.

O ADONAI

O Adonai, Deliverer of the house of Israel,
who in Sinai did'st give the law to Moses:
come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

Please sit.

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 11. 1-5

Read by a chorister.

A reading from the prophecies of Isaiah: the prophet speaks of the righteous Judge who will come from the line of David.

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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.

Please turn the page quietly.

CAROL: ADAM LAY YBOUNDEN

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

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

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
A-been heavenè queen.

Blessèd be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gracias!

Words *Anonymous, 15th century*

Music *Peter Warlock*
(1894–1930)

SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 5. 1-11

Read by Sarah Adegbite, undergraduate student.

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians:
a 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.

Please turn the page quietly.

CAROL: CEDIT, HYEMS

Nox, et tenebrae, et nubila,
confusa mundi et turbida,
(Cedit hyems!)

Cedit, hyems, tua durities,
frigor abiit, rigor et glacies,
brumalis et feritas, rabies,
torpor et improba segnities,
pallor et ira, dolor et macies.

Nunc amor aureus advenies,
indomitos tibi subijcies,
tendo manus.
Lux intrat, albescit polus,
Christus venit, discedite!

Words *Anonymous, 14th century*
Manuscript of Benedictbeuern

*Night, and darkness, and clouds,
disorder and confusion of the world,
(Be gone, winter!)*

*Winter, give up your rigour;
the cold has gone, the hard and ice,
the solstice and wildness, the frenzy,
lethargy and cruel sloth,
pallor and anger, pain and leanness.*

*Now come, golden love,
tame the wild,
I stretch my hands.
Light breaks in, the dawn grows
bright, Christ comes, depart!*

Music *Abbie Betinis*
(b. 1980)

Please stand.

II: THE WORD OF GOD

SENTENCE

O people of Sion, behold the Lord is nigh at hand to redeem the nations, and in the gladness of your heart the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard.

Minister Declare his honour unto the nations:

All **And his wonders unto all people.**

COLLECT

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O RADIX JESSE

O Root of Jesse, standing as a banner for the people,
whom the nations shall seek:
come and deliver us, and tarry not.

O CLAVIS DAVID

O Key of David, that openest and no man shutteth,
and shuttest and no man openeth:
come and bring the prisoner out of the prison house.

Please sit.

Please turn the page quietly.

CAROL: DROP DOWN, YE HEAVENS

Drop down, ye heavens, from above
and let the skies pour down righteousness.
Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:
Fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God,
the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.
Drop down, ye heavens, from above
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Words *from the Advent Prose*

Music *Judith Weir*
(b. 1954)

THIRD LESSON

MICAH 4. 1–4

Read by Lennie Wells, research student.

A reading from the prophecies of Micah: the prophet envisions the last days, when the nations will be judged.

In 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 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.

CAROL: TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance:

*Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to man's nature,
to call my true love to my dance:

Sing, O my love...

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
so very poor this was my chance,
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance:

Sing, O my love...

Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance:

Sing, O my love...

Words *Traditional English Carol*

Music *John Gardner*
(1917–2011)

Please turn the page quietly.

FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 4. 14–21

Read by Sarah Jane Waddelow, member of College staff.

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke: Jesus is the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah.

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.

Please stand to sing the hymn.

HYMN

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 for ever,
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*
(1707–1788)

Tune *CROSS OF JESUS*
John Stainer
(1840–1901)
Descant by *Christopher Robinson*
(b. 1936)

Please remain standing.

Please turn the page quietly.

III: THE PROPHETIC CALL

SENTENCE

Behold, I will send my Messenger and he shall prepare the way before me.

Minister Prepare ye the way of the Lord:

All Make his paths straight.

COLLECT

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O ORIENS

O Day-Spring, Brightness of Light Everlasting,
and Sun of Righteousness:
come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness
and the shadow of death.

O REX GENTIUM

O King of the Nations, and their desire;
the Corner-Stone who makest reconciliation:
come and save mankind, whom thou hast formed of clay.

Please sit.

CAROL: ONE STAR, AT LAST

Fix on one star, at last.
Any star in the circling star blizzard.
That star will take you
Whithersoever To Death and Birth and Love.

Folded it is now, the Dove.
Furled, star folded. The black rain falls,
The bitter floods rise still.
What hand will take the branch from the Dove's beak?

We stand, three vagrants at the last door.
A black fist lingers, a star on withered wood.

Words *George Mackay Brown*
(1921–1996)

Music *Peter Maxwell Davies*
(1934–2016)

FIFTH LESSON

MALACHI 3. 1–7

Read by Sarah Maxwell, member of the College School staff.

A reading from the prophecies of Malachi: 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.

CAROL: LO! THE DESERT DEPTHS ARE STIRR'D

Lo! The desert depths are stirr'd, And the reeds of Jordan quiver; At the Baptist's herald word, Shake the shores of that old river.	Jesu, thou our solace art, Thou our strength and our salvation; Wither'd grass, from thee apart, Fades away man's feeble nation.
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Nearer comes the Preacher's cry, Deeper sounds his voice and deeper, Telling that the Christ is nigh, In a tone to rouse the sleeper.	Lift the lost, with hand of health, Whom the plague is fast consuming; Lift the veil—in all its wealth, Lo! The beauteous world is blooming.
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By their Maker's coming feet Moved, the earth, the air, the ocean Joyously his advent greet, With a strangely yearning motion.	Thou, who comest man to free, Son, be thine all praise for ever; Thine with Sire and Spirit be Laud through ages ending never Alleluia! Amen!
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Cleanse the heart—a highway strew
For the Godhead hither faring;
Cleanse the home—a dwelling, due
To the mighty Guest, preparing.

Words *Charles Coffin*
(1676–1749)

Music *Cheryl Frances-Hoad*
(b. 1980)

This work was commissioned for the College Choir for the 2020 Advent services, although the premiere was postponed to 2021 owing to Covid restrictions.

Please turn the page quietly.

SIXTH LESSON

MATTHEW 3. 1–11

Read by Marie Chabbert, Fellow.

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew: 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 baptized 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 baptize 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 baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing the hymn.

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.

Words *Charles Coffin*
(1676–1749)
Translation by *John Chandler*
(1808–1876)

Tune WINCHESTER NEW
Adapted from a chorale in
'Musicalisches Hand-Buch' Hamburg 1690
Descant by Christopher Robinson
(b. 1936)

Please remain standing.

Please turn the page quietly.

IV: THE GOD-BEARER

SENTENCE

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, 'God with us.'

Minister Unto us a child is born:

All **Unto us a Son is given.**

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst stoop to raise our fallen race by the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen thy glory manifested in our flesh, and thy love perfected in our weakness, may daily be renewed in thine image, and conformed to the likeness of thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the desire of the nations:
come and save us, O Lord our God.

Please sit.

CAROL: A TENDER SHOOT

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.

Words *Anonymous, 16th century*
Translation by *William Bartholomew*
(1793–1867)

Music *Otto Goldschmidt*
(1829–1907)

SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 1. 39–49

Read by the President.

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke: 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 leapt 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 leapt 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.'

Thanks be to God.

CAROL: A SPOTLESS ROSE

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Words *Anonymous, 14th century*

Music *Herbert Howells*
(1892–1983)

Please stand.

Please turn the page quietly.

MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced 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.

Words *Luke 1. 46–55*

Music CHICHESTER SERVICE
William Walton
(1902–1983)

Please sit.

EIGHTH LESSON

JOHN 3. 1-8

Read by the Master.

A reading from the Gospel of St John: Jesus tells 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.

Please stand.

Please turn the page quietly.

SENTENCE

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

Minister Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:

All For he hath visited and redeemed his people.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Please sit.

CAROL: NOVA, NOVA

Nova! Nova!
Gabriel of high degree,
He came down from the Trinity
From Nazareth to Galilee,
Nova, Nova.

He met a maiden in a place;
He kneeled down before her face;
He said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"

When the maiden saw all this,
She was sore abashed, ywis,
Lest that she had done amiss.

Then said the angel: "Dread not you,
You shall conceive in all virtue
A child whose name shall be Jesu."

Then said the maid: "Verily,
I am your servant truly,
Ecce ancilla Domini."
Nova, Nova!

Words *Traditional, 15th century*

Music *Iain Farrington*
(b. 1977)

This work was commissioned by the Master and Fellows. It receives its first performances at these services.

Please stand to sing the hymn.

Please turn the page quietly.

HYMN

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!

Words *Charles Wesley*
(1707–1788)

Tune HELMSLEY
Included in Wesley's Select Hymns 1765
Descant by Christopher Robinson
(b. 1936)

Please remain standing.

THE COLLEGE PRAYER

Bless, O Lord, the work of this College which is called by the name of thy beloved disciple, and grant that love of the brethren and all sound learning may ever grow and prosper here, to thy honour and glory, and to the good of thy people, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

Played by George Herbert

Chorale Prelude on 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland' (BWV 661)

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)*

Final (Symphonie VI)

*Charles-Marie Widor
(1844–1937)*

At the Sunday service we are asked to sit quietly during the Bach organ music following the service, as this is part of the BBC broadcast. Please stand when the Choir and Clergy leave the Chapel.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHOIR

The Director of Music is pleased to receive enquiries from people interested in joining the choir as chorister, choral scholar or organ scholar.

He is always happy to meet them informally to offer advice.

Please contact him at

choir@joh.cam.ac.uk

or contact the Choir Administrator on 01223 338718

CHORISTER VOICE TRIALS

Voice trials are held for boys and girls
aged 6–9 years old.

For further details please contact the Registrar, Maria Mosher,
at St John's College School on

01223 353652

or by email – admissions@sjcs.co.uk

ST JOHN'S VOICES

Those interested in singing in the College's
adult mixed-voice choir are encouraged to contact
Graham Walker, the Director, on ghw22@cam.ac.uk

Priority is generally given to students of St John's,
but singers from outside the College are very welcome to apply.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

Dean

The Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley

Director of Music

Andrew Nethsingha

Chaplain

The Rev'd Andrew Hammond

Director of St John's Voices

Graham Walker

Assistant Organist

George Herbert

Herbert Howells Organ Scholar

Alex Robson

St John's Voices Organists

Jack McCabe & Benedict Turner-Berry

Chapel Clerk

Stephen Stokes

Assistant Verger

John Boulter

COLLECTIONS



Home is a human right. It is SHELTER's foundation and it is where they thrive. Yet, every day millions of people are being devastated by the housing emergency.

Shelter exist to defend the right to a safe home. Because home is everything.

&



EMMAUS supports people who have experienced homelessness by providing them with a home and meaningful work in a community setting

For many people who have experienced homelessness, losing their self-esteem can be the most damaging part of their experience.

Emmaus is different because it provides a home for as long as someone needs it in an Emmaus community. This gives people the opportunity to take stock of their lives, deal with any issues they might have, and often re-establish relationships with loved ones.