

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 25th November 2023 at 6 pm
Sunday 26th November 2023 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 to 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 recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio 3 next Sunday.

*Please note that rubrics asking you to stand are only for those who are able to.
We also invite you to join in the texts printed in **bold**.*



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 Tingshuo Yang, Junior Organ Scholar.

Partita sopra 'Nun freut euch'

*Lionel Rogg
(b. 1936)*

1. Chorale
2. Bicinium
3. Canon
4. Duo
5. Recitative
6. Passacaglia
7. Toccata

Prelude on 'Veni Emmanuel'
from Three Short Preludes

*Edward Bairstow
(1874–1946)*

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)*

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 660)

J S Bach

Pour l'Avent

*Albert Leblanc
(1903–1987)*

1. Ave Maria, gratia plena
2. Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf
3. Taunt, Himmel, den Gerechten

(Continued on following page)

Played by Alexander Robson, Herbert Howells Organ Scholar.

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

Rorate coeli

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921–1968)

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren (BWV 733)

J S Bach

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (BWV 645)

J S Bach

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

INTROIT

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 *Gerald Hendrie (b. 1935)*

This piece was written for the College Choir in 1982.

OPENING SENTENCES

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.

Please stand for the hymn.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The first two verses are sung by the Choir only.

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 us displayed.

All sing the remaining verses; during which the Choir and Clergy move to their stalls.

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.

Words *St Ambrose* (340–397)
Translated by *J M Neale* (1818–1866)
and others

Tune *PUER NOBIS NASCITUR*
Melody adapted by *Michael Praetorius* (1571–1621)
Harmony by *G R Woodward* (1848–1934)
Descant by *Christopher Gray* (b. 1978)

Please remain standing.

BIDDING PRAYER

The season of Advent invites us to prepare for the celebration of Christ's nativity; and for the day when everything in him is made alive. So, with humility and honesty, let us dare to face our failures and shortcomings, and rediscover our hope in God's limitless love and mercy.

In this service we hear the call to be vigilant and to attend to the witness of holy scripture. We encounter the prophetic calling of John the Baptist and the grace-filled courage of Mary. And we look forward to the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

But first let us pray for those whose adversity demands our love and patient attention: those who are hungry or homeless, sick or anxious, lonely or fearful. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all in their care, especially the most vulnerable and those caught at this time in the horrors of war. And let us pray too for all who devote themselves to the relief of suffering and the pursuit of justice and peace.

We gather up all our prayers in the words which Jesus gave 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.**

Please sit.

ANTHEM

Deus, Deus meus es tu.

O God, you are my God.

Ad te de luce vigilo.

For you I long;

Sitivit in te anima mea,

My soul is thirsting for you.

Te desideravit caro mea,

My body pines for you

Like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary

To see your strength and glory.

For your love is better than life,

My lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,

In your name will I lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,

My mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.

On you I muse through the night

For you have been my help;

In the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you:

Your right hand holds me fast.

Words *verses from Psalm 63*

Music *Roxanna Panufnik (b. 1968)*

Please stand.

I: THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT

SENTENCE

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

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.

All **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

Read by a chorister.

A reading from the Gospel of Mark: Jesus warns his followers to be alert.

Jesus said to them: 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Thanks be to God.

Mark 13. 32–36

MOTET

Vigilate, nescitis enim
quando Dominus 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

*Stay awake, because you do not know
when the Lord of the house
is coming, at evening or midnight,
at cock-crow or in the morning.
Stay awake, therefore,
lest when he comes suddenly
he find you asleep.
And what I say to you
I say to all: stay awake.*

Words *Mark 13. 35–37*

Music *William Byrd (1543–1623)*

SECOND LESSON

Read by an undergraduate student.

A reading from the prophecies of Isaiah: the prophet foresees a Messiah whose passion will be for the poor and humble.

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.

Isaiah 11. 1–5

CAROL

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 *German 15th century*
Versified by Otto Goldschmidt (1829–1907)
Translated by William Bartholomew (1793–1867)

Music *Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991)*

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.

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.

All **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.

THIRD LESSON

Read by a research student.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: the writer relishes the double meaning of the Word of God – as scripture, and as Jesus himself.

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 4. 12–16

CAROL

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love.
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.

And we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear;
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

Words *English traditional carol*

Music *English traditional*
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)
and Christopher Robinson (b. 1936)

FOURTH LESSON

Read by a 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.

Luke 4. 14–21

Please stand as the playover to the hymn begins.

HYMN

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.

III: THE PROPHETIC CALL

SENTENCE

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

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.

All **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 Cornerstone who makest reconciliation:
come and save mankind, whom thou hast formed of clay.

Please sit.

FIFTH LESSON

Read by the Headmaster of St John's College School.

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.

Malachi 3. 1-7

MOTET

Fuit homo missus a Deo,
cui nomen erat Joannes.
Hic venit in testimonium,
ut testimonium perhiberet
de lumine,
et pararet Domino
plebem perfectam. Alleluja.

Words *from John 1. 6–7*

*There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.
This man came as a witness,
to give testimony
about the light,
and to prepare for the Lord
a perfect people. Alleluia.*

Music *Hieronymus Praetorius (1560–1629)*

SIXTH LESSON

Read by a 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 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.

Matthew 3. 1-11

Please stand as the playover to the hymn begins.

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.

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.'

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.

All **Amen.**

○ EMMANUEL

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

Please sit.

ANTHEM

Bogoroditsye Dyevo, raduissya,
Blagodatnaya Mariye,
Gósspod (s) Toboyu.
Blagoslovyenna Tyi v zhenách,
i blagoslovyen Plod
chryeva Tvoyégó,
jáko Spássa rodilá jeessí
dush náshikh.

Words *traditional Christian prayer*
drawn from Luke 1. 28, 42

*Rejoice, O Virgin Mother,
Mary full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb,
for thou hast borne
the Saviour of our souls.*

Music Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

SEVENTH LESSON

Read by the President.

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke: an angel of God comes to Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

Then the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

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 TRURO SERVICE
Russell Pascoe (b. 1959)

EIGHTH LESSON

Read by the Master.

'The Annunciation', by Edwin Muir.

The angel and the girl are met.
Earth was the only meeting place.
For the embodied never yet
Travelled beyond the shore of space.

The eternal spirits in freedom go.
See, they have come together, see,
While the destroying minutes flow,
Each reflects the other's face
Till heaven in hers and earth in his
Shine steady there. He's come to her
From far beyond the farthest star,
Feathered through time. Immediacy
Of strangest strangeness is the bliss
That from their limbs all movement takes.
Yet the increasing rapture brings
So great a wonder that it makes
Each feather tremble on his wings.

Outside the window footsteps fall
Into the ordinary day
And with the sun along the wall
Pursue their unreturning way.
Sound's perpetual roundabout
Rolls its numbered octaves out
And hoarsely grinds its battered tune.

But through the endless afternoon
These neither speak nor movement make,
But stare into their deepening trance
As if their gaze would never break.

Edwin Muir (1887–1959)

ANTHEM

It's getting darker, darker all the time
And she is weary and beset with fear
Yet in the darkness of her womb he stirs,
Her tiny hope, the one who is to come.
So on she plods, on past the hostile stares
The checkpoints and the soldiers on the street
Seeking some shelter, somewhere to retreat
And bring to birth the hidden light she bears.

She finds her shelter now and we attend her
Attend this burdened girl who speaks for us,
Whispers to God a broken world's soft 'yes,
Come to be born with us, come find us here.
Outface for us the darkness we can't face,
Show us the face of Love that casts out fear'.

Words *Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)*

Music *Joanna Marsh (b. 1970)*

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

Please stand.

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.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

CAROL

Noel!

This night there is a child yborn,
that sprang out of Jesse's thorn,
we must sing and say therefor:
verbum caro factum est.

[the word was made flesh]

Jesus is the childe's name,
and Mary mild is his dame,
all sorrow is turned to game:
verbum caro factum est.

It fell upon the high midnight,
the stars they shone both fair and bright,
the angels sang with all their might:
verbum caro factum est.

Now kneel we down upon our knee
and pray we to the Trinity,
our help, our succour for to be:
verbum caro factum est.

Noel!

Words *Anonymous 15th century*

Music *Tamsin Jones (b. 1972)*

Please stand as the playover to the hymn begins.

HYMN

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

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

This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Words *Prudentius* (348–413)
Translated by *R F Davis* (1866–1937)

Tune *DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*
Melody from 'Piae Cantiones' (1582)
Arranged with descant by *David Willcocks* (1919–2015)

Please remain standing.

THE COLLEGE PRAYER AND BLESSING

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.

All **Amen.**

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.

All **Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

Played by Alexander Robson

In dir ist Freude (BWV 615)

J S Bach

Symphonie VI, Op. 42 no. 2: Finale

*Charles-Marie Widor
(1844–1937)*

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

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

Dean

The Rev'd Dr Mark Oakley

Director of Music

Christopher Gray

Chaplain

The Rev'd Andrew Hammond

Director of St John's Voices

Graham Walker

Herbert Howells Organ Scholar

Alex Robson

Junior Organ Scholar

Tingshuo Yang

St John's Voices Organists

Jack McCabe & Alex Trigg

St John's Voices Associate Organist

Benedict Turner-Berry

Chapel Clerk

Stephen Stokes

Assistant Verger

John Boulter

Chapel Assistants

Will Gibbens, Jude Lilley, Liam Plimmer & Aimée Schilder

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. You may contact him by email at choir@joh.cam.ac.uk, or by calling 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

COLLECTIONS



WINTERCOMFORT is an information, advice, training and support centre in Cambridge for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed. Open daily throughout the year, they encourage and empower their service users to overcome disadvantage and to make positive, long term changes to improve their lives.

&



JIMMY'S opened in 1995 as Cambridge's first all year round night shelter and now offers a much wider range of support. It remains one of the most prominent organisations within the community supporting people who have been rough sleeping in the city.