

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL



THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 30th November 2024 at 6 pm
Sunday 1st December 2024 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.



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

Please ensure that mobile phones are turned off. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted during the service.

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Played by Tingshuo Yang, Junior Organ Scholar.

Versets pour les Vêpres du Commun
des Fêtes de la Sainte Vierge

Marcel Dupré
(1886–1971)

Antiphon I: While the King Sitteth at His Table

Antiphon II: His Left Hand Is Under My Head, and His Right
Hand Doth Embrace Me

Antiphon III: I am Black but Comely, O Ye Daughters of Jerusalem

Antiphon IV: Lo, the Winter is Past

Antiphon V: How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BuxWV 211)

Dieterich Buxtehude
(c. 1637–1707)

Prelude on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Tingshuo Yang
(b. 2004)

Played by Alexander Robson, Herbert Howells Organ Scholar.

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren (BWV 733)

J S Bach
(1685–1750)

Rorate coeli

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921–1968)

Trois Pièces

Nadia Boulanger
(1887–1979)

i. Prélude

ii. Petit canon

iii. Improvisation

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (BWV 645)

J S Bach

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please remain seated as the Choir sings the introit.

INTROIT: RORATE COELI

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

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 *Isaiah 45. 8 &*
Aurelius Prudentius Clemens (348– after 405)

Music *Plainsong (mode i)*

Please stand to sing the hymn.



¹ 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.*

² 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.

³ O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from Sinai's mountain, clothed
with awe,
gavest thy folk the ancient law.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

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:

Please sit or kneel.

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.**

CAROL: IN THE STILLNESS

In the stillness of a church
Where candles glow,
In the softness of a fall
Of fresh white snow,

In the brightness of the stars
That shine this night,
In the calmness of a pool
Of healing light,

In the clearness of a choir
That softly sings,
In the oneness of a hush
Of angels' wings,

In the mildness of a night
By stable bare,
In the quietness of a lull
Near cradle fair,

There's a patience as we wait
For a new morn,
And the presence of a child
Soon to be born.

Words Katrina Shepherd

Music Sally Beamish (b. 1956)

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.

CAROL: PEOPLE LOOK EAST

People look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

*People look east, and sing today.
Love the guest is on the way.*

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

*People look east, and sing today.
Love the rose is on the way.*

Birds, though ye long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
he for fledgling-time has chosen.

*People look east, and sing today.
Love the bird is on the way.*

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.

*People look east, and sing today.
Love the star is on the way.*

Angels announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.

*People look east, and sing today.
Love the Lord is on the way.*

Words *Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)*

Music *Traditional Besançon melody
arranged by Martin Shaw (1875–1958)*

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 11. 1–5

Read by a Head Chorister.

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.

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 *Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991)*

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]*

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

Words *anonymous, 14th century*

Music *John Joubert (1927–2019)*

SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 5. 1-11

Read by an undergraduate student.

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

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL: CHRIST HATH A GARDEN

Christ hath a garden walled around,
a paradise of fruitful ground,
chosen by love and fenced by grace,
from out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand,
there planted by his mighty hand,
by Eden's gracious streams, that flow,
to feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heaven and bear
their sweetest perfume through the air,
stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom,
till the beloved Master come.

That he may come, and linger yet,
among the trees that he hath set,
that he may evermore be seen.
To walk amid the springing green.

Words *Isaac Watts (1674–1748)*

Music *Eleanor Daley (b. 1952)*

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.

THIRD LESSON

MICAH 4. 1-4

Read by a postgraduate student.

The prophet's vision of 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: A HYMN OF ST COLUMBA

Regis regum rectissimi
prope est dies Domini
dies irae et vindictae,
tenebrarum et nebulae,
Regis regum rectissimi.

Diesque mirabilium
tonitruorum fortium,
dies quoque angustiae,
maeroris ac tristitiae.
Regis regum rectissimi.

In quo cessabit mulierum
amor et desiderium
nominumque contentio
mundi hujus et cupido.
Regis regum rectissimi.

*King of kings and of lords most high,
comes his day of judgement nigh:
day of Wrath and vengeance stark,
day of shadows and cloudy dark,
King of kings and of lords most high.*

*Thunder shall rend that day apart,
wonder amaze each fearful heart.
Anguish and pain and deep distress
shall mark that day of bitterness.
King of kings and of lords most high.*

*That day the pangs of lust will cease,
man's questing heart shall be at peace;
then shall the great no more contend
and worldly fame be at an end.
King of kings and of lords most high.*

Words *attributed to St Columba (521–597)*

Music *Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)*

FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 4. 14-21

Read by a member of College staff.

The words of the Prophet Isaiah are fulfilled by Jesus Christ

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

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

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

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing the hymn.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of the melody, and the second system contains the next two lines. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The notes are as follows:

- Line 1: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).
- Line 2: D4 (half), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half).
- Line 3: D3 (half), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (half).
- Line 4: D2 (half), C2 (quarter), B1 (quarter), A1 (quarter), G1 (quarter), F1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (half).

By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Tune CROSS OF JESUS
John Stainer (1840–1901)
Last verse harmony by Christopher Gray (b. 1978)

Please sit.

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.

FIFTH LESSON

MALACHI 3. 1–7

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

The day of God's appearing brings judgement and cleansing.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: THIS IS THE RECORD OF JOHN

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests
and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?
And he confessed, and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou
Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the Prophet?
And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may
give an answer unto them that sent us. What say'st
thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him
that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of
the Lord.

Words *John 1. 19–23*

Music *Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)*

SIXTH LESSON

MATTHEW 3. 1–11

Read by a Fellow.

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 sit.

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.

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.

ANTHEM: ANNUNCIATION

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.

Words *Edwin Muir* (1887–1959)

Music *Helena Paish* (b. 2002)

This anthem was composed for the College Choir in 2024.

SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 1. 39–49

Read by the President.

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,
and holy is his Name.'

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 ST JOHN'S SERVICE
Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

This piece was composed for the College Choir in 2022.

EIGHTH LESSON

JOHN 3. 1-8

Read by the Master.

Jesus speaks with Nicodemus of the 'birth from above'.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

Thanks be to God.

CAROL: THE SEVEN JOYS OF MARY

The first good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of one;
To see the blessed Jesus Christ
When he was first her son, good man:

*And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
To all eternity.*

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of two;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To make the lame to go, good man:

Refrain

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of three;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To make the blind to see, good man:

Refrain

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of four;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To read the Bible o'er, good man:

Refrain

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of five;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To raise the dead alive, good man:

Refrain

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of six;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To bear the Crucifix, good man:

Refrain

The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of seven;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To wear the Crown of heaven, good man:

Refrain

Words *anonymous, 14th century*

Music *Traditional melody*
Arranged by William Whitehead (b. 1970)

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.**

CAROL: WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Words *William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)*

Music *Russell Pascoe (b. 1959)*

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

Please stand to sing the hymn.

HYMN



¹ Hills of the North, rejoice,
Echoing songs arise,
Hail with united voice
Him who made earth and skies:
He comes in righteousness and
love,
He brings salvation from above.

² Isles of the Southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.

³ Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed
to know
In Christ draws near, and calls
you now.

⁴ Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest
night.

⁵ Shout, as you journey on,
Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the sons of earth be blest.

Words *Editors, New English Hymnal based on*
C E Oakley (1832–1865)

Tune **LITTLE CORNARD**
Martin Shaw (1875–1958)
Descant by Christopher Gray (b. 1978)

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 MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

Played by Alexander Robson

In dir ist Freude (BWV 615)

J S Bach
(1685–1750)

Le Monde dans l'attente du Sauveur (Symphonie-Passion) *Marcel Dupré*
(1886–1971)

On Sunday the congregation is 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. 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. You may contact her by email at admissions@sjcs.co.uk or by phone on 01223 353652.

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.

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EMMAUS CAMBRIDGE was the first Emmaus community to be established in the UK.

Emmaus supports people who have experienced homelessness.

There are now 30 communities across the UK supporting more than 815 people, known within Emmaus as companions, by providing a home for as long as needed and meaningful work in a social enterprise. There are also three Emmaus groups who are developing their communities and in time will provide facilities to accommodate companions.