

St Mary's Church, Redbourn



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Advent Sunday
29th November 2020

5.00 pm

Tonight we hear again, in words and music, the story of God's love for the world in sending Jesus Christ to be the light of the nations, the long awaited Saviour.

Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

– Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Hymn

**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.**

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

**O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.**

**O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

*Veni Redemptor gentium
St Ambrose (c.340–397)*

*translated by John Mason Neale (1818–1866) and others
Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 32.*

The Bidding Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All pray:

**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.**

1st Lesson

Genesis 1. 1-3, 24-28

read by a Sidesperson and member of the Flower Arranging Team

Choir

Adam lay y-bounden

Words: Anon, 15th century

Music: Boris Ord (1897-1961)

*Adam lay y-bounden,
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
Abeen heavenè queen.*

*Blessèd be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gratias!*

2nd Lesson

Isaiah 60. 1-5

read by a member of the Junior Choir

Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
his changeless name of love.

James Montgomery (1771–1854)
based on Psalm 72

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 99.

3rd Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11, 23-24

read by a member of the Church Textile Group

Choir

This is the truth sent from above

Text: Traditional English

Music: Traditional English,
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from the door,
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing that I will relate,
that God at first did man create;
the next thing which to you I tell:
woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes
till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run:
that he'd redeem us by his Son.

And at this season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear,
and 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.

4th Lesson

Haggai 2. 6-9

read by the Vicar's Secretary and altar server

Hymn

**The advent of our King
our prayers must now employ,
and we must hymns of welcome sing
in strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son
incarnate deigns to be;
himself a servant's form puts on,
to set his servants free.**

**Daughter of Sion, rise
to meet thy lowly King;
nor let thy faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and his true members all unite
with him in heaven to reign.**

**All glory to the Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever One,
through all eternity.**

Instantis adventum Dei
Charles Coffin (1676–1749)
translated by John Chandler (1806–1876)

5th Lesson

Isaiah 35. 1-6

read by the Sacristan, church cleaner and member of Mothers' Union

Hymn

**Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?**

**Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!**

**This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.**

**Through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning,
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.**

6th Lesson

Luke 1. 26-35, 38

read by a recent member of the Charitable Finance Committee

Choir

The Angel Gabriel

Words: Traditional Basque,
translated by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Tune: Traditional Basque,
arranged by Edgar Pettman (1886-1943)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted as snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail", said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady."
Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generation laud and honour thee.
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
most highly favoured lady."
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favoured lady.
Gloria!

7th Lesson

John 3. 16-21

read by a member of the Wider Ministry Team

Hymn

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.**

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught 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:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788) and John Cennick (1718–1755)

The fifth line of each verse is sung three times.

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 41.

The Advent Litany

Vicar: Now is the time for us to wake from our sleep:
for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed

All reply: **Lord, may your Kingdom come.**

Help us to show our repentance
by a new way of living.

Lord, may your Kingdom come.

Prepare us for the coming of your Word
made known in Jesus Christ
by opening our hearts to receive Him.

Lord, may your Kingdom come.

Help us to overcome our pride,
and raise us from the depths of our weakness.

Lord, may your Kingdom come.

Throw down the walls of hatred between nations;
clear the way for those who work for peace.

Lord, may your Kingdom come.

Bring justice to those bowed down with suffering,
defend the poor and powerless.

Lord, may your Kingdom come.

Let us love the Church, which continues to
proclaim to all ages the reality of your coming.

Lord, may your Kingdom come.

Teach us to use our gifts for others, and to fulfill
the purpose which the Father has for his children.

Lord, may your Kingdom come.

May we live our lives to the full in this world and
transfigure it with the hope of future glory.

Lord, may your Kingdom come.

Let your grace, Lord,
light our journey to the end.
Support us now and always as we wait,
longing with all our hearts,
for the coming of Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All

Hymn

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:**

**O come, thou key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:**

John Mason Neale (1818–1866)

translated from Latin Advent Antiphons

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern* Electronic Words Edition, number 45.

The Advent Collect and Blessing

Vicar: Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us
in great humility so that on the last day,
when he shall come again in glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

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

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

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

Voluntary Chorale Prelude on Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645

– J. S Bach (1685-1750)