



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

*A Candlelit Ceremony of Music
and Readings
with the Great 'O' Antiphons of Advent*

**Sunday 29th November 2020
at 18:00 streamed via YouTube.**

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME

The Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral welcomes you most warmly to this Advent Processional service. Through words and music, we are invited to enter more deeply into the unfolding mystery of our salvation. As each of the seven great Advent antiphons is sung, another aspect of God's saving love is presented to us, to be savoured further through scripture, prayer and meditation. It is our hope that through this engagement we will all be brought closer to the Lord who desires to come close to us.

Whilst this year because of the lockdown we cannot all gather in our Cathedral we can gather online via YouTube and experience this wonderful service in a very different, and yet, real way as our readers and Cathedral Choir transport us in prayer and praise.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

This service takes us on a pilgrimage. We begin in darkness with one candle being lit and gradually the light permeates the darkness as the first Advent candle is moved through the building. But the journey is about far more than one candle lighting up many and making the building look pretty. It is also about the light of Christ illuminating even the deepest crevices and backwaters of our lives. As the service progresses we steadily expose our flawed and sinful humanity. The service seeks to make us vulnerable to the loving purposes of God seen most clearly in the sending of Jesus Christ as our King, our Saviour, our Redeemer and, ultimately, our Judge. It also provides us with the resolution to our state of life: ultimately a call to say that we are sorry.

The richness of the music and the readings of Advent from Scripture help move us along our journey of illumination. They help us understand that longing and movement in the human soul towards God.

The shape of the journey is given by each part of the service commencing with the singing and contemplation of the great 'O' Antiphons. Customarily these antiphons (verses) are sung before the Magnificat at evensong in the week running up to Christmas Day and provide for us a frame around the words of hope and salvation sung by Mary when the Angel Gabriel announced to her that she was to be the bearer of Jesus. The antiphons gradually build one by one towards a crescendo by reiterating again and again the word, 'come'. You will also notice that each of our congregational hymns also contains that same word. The word becomes our prayer... 'Lord, Jesus come into my life, come and be my Redeemer and my Saviour'.

During the service as the light becomes brighter, as our lives are revealed in that light for what they are, so too the light and hope shine brighter into our present and illuminate our pathway into the future.

*The Cathedral Choir is conducted by Ben Lamb, the Director of Music,
who also has produced the YouTube recording of this service.*

*The organ is played by Martyn Rawles
Assistant Director of Music and Cathedral Organist*

*The collects and responsories are sung by the Revd Canon Andrew Stead,
the Canon Precentor*

The readings are read by Justina Hart and Paul Spicer.

ORDER OF SERVICE

*As the Cathedral Clock strikes the hour, light is kindled and the Precentor intones the
Responsory*

MATIN RESPONSORY

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1525-94)

The Schola sings the first antiphon

I : O SAPIENTIA

*O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,
you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care:
Come and show your people the way to salvation.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wisdom 9.9-11

1 Corinthians 2.6-10

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image.
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works,
and to serve you with reverence, joy and thanksgiving;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme
over all things now and for ever. **Amen.**

II : O ADONAI

*O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel,
who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush,
who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain:
Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 2.3-5

Hebrews 12.18, 22a, 23b, 24a, 25a, 29

The choir sings the hymn

COME, THOU REDEEMER

Music: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

COLLECT

Lord God our Redeemer, who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:
free us from the tyranny of sin and death
and, by the leading of your Spirit,
bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Schola sings the third antiphon

III : O RADIX JESSE

*O Flower of Jesse's stem,
you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples;
kings stand silent in your presence;
the nations bow down in worship before you.
Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11.10, 11b, 12; 12.1a, 2b

Revelation 5.2-4a, 5

THERE IS A FLOWER SPRINGING

Music: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

COLLECT

Almighty God and most merciful Father,
who would have the kingdoms of the world
become the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ:
bestow your blessing upon all who labour for peace
and righteousness among the peoples:
that the day may be hastened when war shall be no more,
and your will only shall govern the nations upon earth;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Schola sings the fourth antiphon

IV : O CLAVIS DAVID

*O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven:
Come, break down the prison walls of death
for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death;
and lead your captive people into freedom.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 42.5a, 6, 7

Luke 4.16-20

HYMN

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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 universe be blest.**

*Editors of New English Hymnal
based on Charles E Oakley 1832-1865*

COLLECT

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love:
so mightily shed abroad your Spirit
that all peoples may be gathered under the banner
of the Prince of Peace as children of one Father, Lord of Love,
to whom alone be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Schola sings the fifth antiphon

V : O ORIENS

*O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60.1-3

Luke 1.76-79

SURGE, ILLUMINARE!

*Arise, shine, O Jerusalem:
for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people:
but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*

Music: Benjamin Lamb (b.1974)

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,
the desire of all nations, and the shepherd of our souls.
Let your light shine in the darkness,
that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God.
By the lifting up of your Cross, gather the peoples into your fold;
so that there may be one flock, one shepherd,
one holy kingdom of righteousness and peace,
one God and Father of all, above all, and in all, and through all. **Amen.**

HYMN

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

Charles Coffin tr. John Chandler 1808-1876

The Schola sings the sixth antiphon

VI : O REX GENTIUM

*O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of man:
Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

E'EN SO, LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME

Music: Paul Manz (1919-2009)

COLLECT

O King of all and master of our lives, entering into glory by your cross,
to whom all authority is given both in heaven and on earth:
come, O Christ, enter into your kingdom,
subdue the world by the power of your love,
and be known and adored to all the ends of the earth;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Schola sings the seventh antiphon

VII : O EMMANUEL

*O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people:
Come and set us free, Lord our God.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1.18-23

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

Choir only

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:
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

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

Latin Advent Antiphons tr. J M Neale 1818-1866

VESPER RESPONSORY

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1525-94)

COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

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 his 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.**

THE BLESSING

*The Very Revd Adrian Dorber
Dean of Lichfield*

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 nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland BWV 661
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

If you would like to be kept informed of services and events at Lichfield Cathedral please do get in touch with us.

Our general 'phone number is 01543 306100.

You'll find us on Facebook and Twitter@LichfieldCath

www.lichfield-cathedral.org

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Lichfield Cathedral is called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God. Through the fullness of its life in the Spirit, it seeks to be a sign of the friendship and freedom that God in Jesus Christ has given the whole world to enjoy.