



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL



YOU WILL KNOW THAT
THE LORD IS COMING
TO SAVE US AND IN
THE MORNING YOU
WILL SEE HIS GLORY.

'From Darkness to Light'

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

**Saturday 30th November 2024
& Sunday 1st December 2024
at 18:00**

INTRODUCTION



Please read the order of service carefully before the lights go out.

WELCOME

The Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral welcomes you most warmly to this Advent Carol 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.

It is especially pleasing to greet so many from the parishes of our Diocese; our partners in the work of the Cathedral, our Friends, our Patrons and Guardians; and all whose generosity and hard work we acknowledge with gratitude.

SAFETY

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain quiet and respond calmly and promptly to the directions of the vergers and stewards.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Occasionally the Cathedral Photographers take photos (without flash) during services, for use on the Cathedral website or on social media. They make every effort to do so as discreetly and quietly as possible. If you or any of your party prefer not to be in any photo, please speak to the photographer directly.

RECORDINGS AND MOBILE 'PHONES

You are kindly requested not to take photographs or to make sound or video recordings in the Cathedral. **Please ensure that mobile 'phones are switched off.**

LAVATORIES can be found in the **Old Stables**. Please ask a steward for directions.

OFFERINGS

Your gifts are vital in sustaining our mission and worship. A collection will be taken by Stewards during the offertory hymn. Please do Gift Aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer by completing the required details on the envelopes provided. There are electronic giving points where you can tap a debit or credit card; if you need assistance with these devices, please do ask steward or vergier. You can also scan this QR code or visit www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate to donate online.



*Please join in with whatever is printed **in bold type**. Large-print versions of this booklet are available: please ask a steward. The order of service indicates which is the appropriate posture (standing or sitting) but please feel free to stand or sit as you are able.*

TORCHES/LIGHTS

Much of this evening's service is in darkness and there will be occasions when you might find it difficult to follow the order of service. We do appreciate this, but we ask you, in order to preserve the candlelit nature and atmosphere of the service, **not** to use torches or mobile 'phone lights to read. Please feel comfortable to take part and enjoy the service by listening.

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 we move through the service 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 the service is a call to saying 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, 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.

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ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

played by Martyn Rawles

Assistant Director of Music and Organist of Lichfield Cathedral

Veni Redemptor: A Celebration

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Fantasy on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Kenneth Leighton

At 17:50 there will be a pause in the organ music while the Dean welcomes and addresses the congregation.

Rorate caeli

Melissa Dunphy (b.1980)

The remaining light is extinguished and the congregation waits in silence for the chiming of the Cathedral clock.

Remain seated until the hymn, 'Hills of the North, rejoice'.

ORDER OF SERVICE

*The light is kindled,
the Choir candles are lit and the Responsory is then sung.*

MATIN RESPONSORY

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

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign
over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
go ye out to meet him and say:
(Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign
over thy people Israel?)

Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel,
thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar:
and lo, I see the power of God coming
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign
over thy people Israel?

Please remain seated as 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.

*The procession moves to the centre of the Nave as the Schola sings the
second antiphon*

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 following hymn as the choir procession moves,
via the South Aisle, to the Crossing*

COME, THOU REDEEMER

Music — Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

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 promised fruit to man displayed.

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 breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene
And twilight never intervene.

All laud, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost, for evermore. Amen.

St Ambrose (340-397) tr. J M Neale (1818-1866)

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 procession moves to the South Transept as 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

A SPOTLESS ROSE

Words — 14th century

Music — Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*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.*

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 procession moves to the North Transept as 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

VIGILATE

Music — William Byrd 1540-1623

*Watch, for you do not know when the master of the house
will come: at evening or at midnight, at the cock-crow or in
the morning. Watch, therefore, lest when he comes suddenly
he should find you sleeping. What I say to you I say to all;
Watch.*

Mark 13.35-6

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.

Stand

The procession moves to the Lady Chapel via the North Quire Aisle

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*

Sit

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

Music — Benjamin Lamb (b.1974)

*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.*

Isaiah 60

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.**

Stand

The procession moves via the South Quire Aisle and Crossing into the Quire

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

Sit

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)

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their all!*

Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz

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

Stand

The choir proceeds to the High Altar Sanctuary.

The Advent Candle is placed in the stone at the Crossing.

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

Remain standing

VESPER RESPONSORY

Music — Sarah MacDonald (b.1968)

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, not be dismayed.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.]

Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.

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 Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

*During the final hymn, the procession returns to the Vestibule
via the Nave, North Aisle and North Quire Aisle*

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:
Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.**

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

ORGAN VOLUNTARY
Fantasy on 'Helmsley'
Kenneth Leighton

THANK OFFERING

There will be an opportunity to make a donation in support of the Cathedral's work as you leave this evening. Please be as generous as you are able, using the Gift Aid envelopes if you are a taxpayer.

CAROL SERVICES

If you have enjoyed this evening's Advent Carol Service you might be interested in attending one the following carol services:

Monday 23 December (repeated on Christmas Eve)

18:00 Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 5 January 2025

18:00 Epiphany Carol Service (*Chamber Choir*)

Sunday 2 February 2025

18:00 Candlemas Carol Service (*Cathedral Choir*)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tuesday 24 December *Christmas Eve*

15:00 **Family Crib Service**

A celebration of the Christmas story.

18:00 **Festival of Lessons and Carols with the Cathedral Choir**

(A repeat of the service held on Monday 23 December)

22:00 **Midnight Eucharist**

As Midnight approaches, we come together for the First Eucharist (communion Service) of Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Singing will be led by the Chamber Choir. Please note that incense will be used.

Wednesday 25 December *Christmas Day*

08:00 **Holy Communion**

10:30 **Choral Eucharist with the Cathedral Choir**

15:30 **Evening Prayer with Carols around the Crib**

Details of these and all the other events and services can be found in our Autumn and Christmas What's On leaflet which is available in the Cathedral or by visiting the Cathedral website:

www.lichfield-cathedral.org