

St Mary's Church, Haverhill
and
St Mary's Church, Withersfield

Advent Carol Service

An Advent Journey



Sunday 28th November 2021 at 4.30pm

Come, thou long-expected Jesus!

THE GATHERING

The clergy and choir gather at the back of the church.

ADVENT RESPONSORY

read by the minister

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?

Words: First Responory of Advent Sunday (Office of Mattins)

THE BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

sung by the choir

You, O Lord are my lamp:
You turn our darkness into light.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:
In your light shall we see light.

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon our path.

The advent candle is lit.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

THE PROMISE OF HIS GLORY

sung by the choir

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, eternal creator of day and night. Now, as darkness is falling, hear the prayer of your faithful people. Wash away our transgressions, cleanse us by your refining fire, and make us temples of your Holy Spirit. May we live in watchfulness as we wait for the coming of you Son, Jesus Christ, who shall judge the world and all its works. Rouse us from the sleep of sin and make us ready to enter your kingdom where songs of praise for ever sound. For you are the true light, who lightens everyone, and the

new heavens and the new earth join to sing your praise now and for evermore. Amen.

HMYN: COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

During this hymn the congregation's candles are lit as the choir moves in procession to the choir stalls. The light is placed in the advent wreath in the nave.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

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

READING: ZECHARIAH 9.9-1

'Rejoice your Lord comes.'

Silence is kept.

ANTHEM: ADAM LAY YBOUNDEN

READING: JEREMIAH 23.5-6

The Righteous Branch of David

Silence is kept.

HYMN: HARK A HERALD VOICE IS CALLING

Hark! A herald voice is calling;
'Christ is nigh!' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiv'n.

So when next he comes with glory,
Wrapping all the earth in fear,
May he then, as our defender,
On the clouds of heav'n appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run.

READING: PSALM 118.19-29

'Open the gates of righteousness.'

Silence is kept.

ANTHEM: CHRIST IS THE WORLD'S TRUE LIGHT

Words: G W Briggs (1875-1959); Music: W K Stanton (1891-1978)

READING: ISAIAH 9.2, 6-7

Light in the darkness

Silence is kept.

HYMN: CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,

Longing for truth, we turn to you:

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ be our light,

Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness!

Christ be our light,

Shine in your Church gathered today!

Longing for peace, our world is troubled,

Longing for hope, many despair,

Your word alone has power to save us:

Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry,

Longing for water, many still thirst:

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
Longing for warmth, many are cold:
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong:
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

READING: ISAIAH 7.10-15

'A virgin shall conceive.'

Silence is kept.

ANTHEM: THIS IS THE TRUTH SENT FROM ABOVE

Words: traditional; Music: R Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYMN: LO HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Once for mortal sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty:
We who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
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, with what rapture, 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! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

READING: REVELATION 15.2-4

King of the nations

Silence is kept.

ANTHEM: A TENDER SHOOT

Words: William Bartholomew; Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

HYMN: YE SERVANTS OF THE LORD

Ye servants of the Lord,
Each for his coming wait,
Observant of his heav'nly word,
And watchful at his gate.

Let all your lamps be bright,
And trim the golden flame;
Gird up your loins as in his sight,
For awesome is his name.

Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
And while we speak, he's near;
Mark the first signal of his hand,
And ready all appear.

O happy servants they,
In such a posture found,
Who share their Saviour's triumph day,
With joy and honour crowned.

Christ shall the banquet spread
With his own royal hand,
And raise each faithful servant's head,
Amid th'angelic band.

READING: MATTHEW 25.31-37

The Final Judgement

Silence is kept.

ANTHEM: REMEMBER O THOU MAN

Words: 16th Century English; Music: Thomas Ravenscroft (1582-1635)

READING: REVELATION 22.12-13, 16-17, 20

The Coming of Jesus

PRAYERS

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and Judge. We pray for... Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for... Before you, rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. We pray for... Break into our lives where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

Marantha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We pray for... Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Marantha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven Lord Jesus with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Marantha: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom in the words our Saviour gave us.

Our Father, ...

Come, Lord Jesus, and do not delay. Give new courage to your people who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord be with you;
and also with you.

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 bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN: O COME O COME EMMANUEL

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 heav'nly 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.

DISMISSAL

O Lord Jesus Christ, come at evening time with light,
and in the morning with your glory;
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

He who receives our prayers says:
Surely I come quickly.
I am the root and offspring of David,
I am the bright morning star.
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.