

Light in the Darkness:  
An Online Advent Sunday Evening

Great St Mary's  
The University Church, Cambridge

29 November 2020

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Streaming at [youtube.com/c/greatstmarys](https://youtube.com/c/greatstmarys)

## **Bells**

*Rung by the Society of Cambridge Youths*

## **Matin Responory**

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:  
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 Spirit.

*Early medieval Roman rite. Music adapted from a Magnificat by  
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina 1525-1594  
Recorded 1 December 2019*

## Welcome and Bidding Prayer

*The Vicar, the Revd Canon Adrian Daffern, gives an informal welcome before reading*

We gather this night in our homes and with our hearts to hear the good news of the coming of God's kingdom, and so prepare ourselves through words and music to celebrate this season of Advent. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the promise of his glory, and in longing for his coming again. As we seek to renew our allegiance to God's loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope, especially the abused, the homeless, and the forgotten; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray that we, with them, may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

And may the Lord, when he comes, find us watching – and waiting.

## Hymn

O come, thou Jesse's Rod, draw nigh  
and free us from the enemy.  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright,  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,  
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

O come, thou Lord of David's Key!  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,  
And bar the way to death's abode.

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:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
redeem thy captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:  
Refrain.

*Antiphons for the last week of Advent, translated and versified by T A Lacey, J M Neale and others, tune VENI EMMANUEL from a French Missal, harmonised, with descant, by Benedict Todd b. 1987*

## I. O Sapientia

### **Antiphon**

O Wisdom,  
which camest out of the mouth of the most High,  
and reachest from one end to another,  
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:  
Come and teach us the way of truth.

## Reading

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.

*Advent Calendar, Rowan Williams b. 1950*

## Canticle: Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us :  
in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets :  
which have been since the world began;  
That we should be saved from our enemies :  
and from the hand of all that hate us.  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers :  
and to remember his holy Covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham :  
that he would give us;  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies : might  
serve him without fear;  
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.  
And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest : for  
thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the  
remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God : whereby the day-spring  
from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of  
death : and to guide our feet into the way of peace

*Book of Common Prayer, from Luke 1.68-79.*

*Music from the Service for three voices by John Mundy bef.1555-1630*

*Recorded 12 June 2016*

## 2. O Adonai

### **Antiphon**

O Adonai,  
and Leader of the house of Israel,  
who appearedst in the Bush to Moses in a flame of fire:  
and gavest him the law in Sinai:  
Come and deliver us with an out-stretched arm.

## Reading

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Romans 13.11-end*

## Anthem

*Canite tuba in Sion,  
vocate gentes  
annuntiate populis et dicite:  
Ecce Deus salvator noster adveniet.  
Annuntiate et auditum facite loquimini et clamate:  
Ecce Deus salvator noster adveniet.*

Blow the trumpet in Sion,  
address the nations,  
declare to the people and say:  
Behold, God our Saviour draws nigh.  
Declare, make heard by  
speaking and shout:  
Behold, God our Saviour draws nigh.

*Advent motet, from Joel 2:1 and Jeremiah 4:5.  
Music by Hieronymus Praetorius 1560-1629*

*Recorded 1 December 2019*

#### Antiphon

O Root of Jesse,  
which standest for an ensign of the people,  
at whom kings shall shut their mouths  
whom the Gentiles shall seek:  
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

#### Reading

Let in the wind,  
Let in the rain,  
Let in the moors tonight,

The storm beats on my window-pane,  
Night stands at my bed-foot,  
Let in the fear,  
Let in the pain,  
Let in the trees that toss and groan,  
Let in the north tonight.

Let in the nameless formless power  
That beats upon my door,  
Let in the ice, let in the snow,  
The banshee howling on the moor,  
The bracken-bush on the bleak hillside,  
Let in the dead tonight.

The whistling ghost behind the dyke,  
The dead that rot in the mire,  
Let in the thronging ancestors,  
The unfilled desire,  
Let in the wraith of the dead earl,  
Let in the dead tonight.

Let in the cold,  
Let in the wet,  
Let in the loneliness,  
Let in the quick,  
Let in the dead,  
Let in the unpeopled skies.

Oh how can virgin fingers weave  
A covering for the void,  
How can my fearful heart conceive  
Gigantic solitude?  
How can a house so small contain  
A company so great?  
Let in the dark,  
Let in the dead,  
Let in your love tonight.

Let in the snow that numbs the grave,  
Let in the acorn-tree,  
The mountain stream and mountain stone,  
Let in the bitter sea.

Fearful is my virgin heart  
And frail my virgin form,  
And must I then take pity on  
The raging of the storm  
That rose up from the great abyss  
Before the earth was made,  
That pours the stars in cataracts  
And shakes this violent world?

Let in the fire,  
Let in the power,  
Let in the invading might.

Gentle must my fingers be  
And pitiful my heart  
Since I must bind in human form  
A living power so great,  
A living impulse great and wild  
That cries about my house  
With all the violence of desire  
Desiring this my peace.

Pitiful my heart must hold  
The lonely stars at rest,  
Have pity on the raven's cry,  
The torrent and the eagle's wing,  
The icy water of the tarn  
And on the biting blast.

Let in the wound,  
Let in the pain,  
Let in your child tonight.

*Northumbrian Sequence IV, Kathleen Raine 1908-2003*

## **Anthem**

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.

*Anon. German (16th century or earlier) Marian Hymn, tr. C Winkworth.  
Music by Paul Mealor (1975- )  
Recorded 3 December 2017*

## 4. O Clavis David

### Antiphon

O Key of David,  
and Sceptre of the house of Israel;  
that openest, and no-one shutteth;  
and shuttest and no-one openeth:  
Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison house,  
and him that sitteth in darkness.

### Reading

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.

And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, "As the Lord lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt," but "As

the Lord lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them.” Then they shall live in their own land.

*Jeremiah 23.5-8*

## **Organ Music**

*Nun komm den heiden Heiland (BWV 659)  
J S Bach 1685-1750*

## **5. O Oriens**

### **Antiphon**

O Dayspring,  
Brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness:  
Come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness,  
and the shadow of death.

### **Reading**

Moments of great calm,  
Kneeling before an altar  
Of wood in a stone church  
In summer, waiting for the God  
To speak; the air a staircase  
For silence; the sun's light  
Ringing me, as though I acted  
A great rôle. And the audiences  
Still; all that close throng  
Of spirits waiting, as I,  
For the message.

Prompt me, God;  
But not yet. When I speak,  
Though it be you who speak  
Through me, something is lost.  
The meaning is in the waiting.

*Kneeling, R. S. Thomas 1913-2000*

## **Anthem**

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light  
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,  
As stars about thy throne, set in the height  
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight  
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
Our nature all shall feel eternal day  
In fellowship with thee, transforming day  
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*Harry Ramsden Bramley 1833-1917*  
*Music by Charles Wood 1866-1926*

*Recorded on tour on 22 February 2020 at St Stephen's Church, Canterbury*

## 6. O Rex Gentium

### Antiphon

O King of the nations, and their Desire;  
the Cornerstone,  
who makest both one:  
Come, and save mankind,  
whom thou formedst of clay.

### Reading

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.'

*Luke 12.35-37*

### Organ music

*Bach Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (BWV 645)  
J S Bach 1685-1750*

## 7. O Emmanuel

### Antiphon

O Emmanuel,  
our King and Lawgiver,  
the Desire of all nations and their Salvation:  
Come and save us, O Lord, our God.

## Reading

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.

*The Annunciation, Edwin Muir 1887-1959*

## Music: Ave Maria (Holst)

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;  
benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*Traditional prayer, based on Luke 1.26 and 41, formalised by the Council of  
Trent (1566). Music by Gustav Holst 1874-1934  
Recorded 15 July 2018*

## The Advent 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 Spirit,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As we await the fulfillment of the promise of glory,  
let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom

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.

## **Hymn**

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
Christ 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!  
shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Charles Wesley 170788 and John Cennick 171855  
Tune Helmsley melody by Thomas Olivers 1725-1799*

*The Vicar gives*

## **The Blessing**

### **Organ Music**

*Variations on 'Ravenscroft's Psalter (1621): Hark, the glad sound!'  
George Dyson (1883-1964)*

#### *Ministers of the Service*

President	<i>The Vicar, the Revd Canon Adrian Daffern</i>
Music	<i>Sam Hayes, Director of Music Dr Benedict Todd, Organist &amp; Assistant Director of Music The choirs of Great St Mary's, the University Church</i>
Readers:	<i>Veronica McDouall, The Revd David Bagnall, The Revd Shirley Holder. Thomas Ware, Mavis Perkins, Dave Richards, 'Dora Jejey</i>
Video Editing	<i>The Revd Devin McLachlan, Associate Vicar</i>

