



## *Advent Carol Service*

## Welcome

A warm welcome to Loughborough's Historic Parish Church for this Advent Carol Service.

Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation that looks back at the people who waited in darkness for the coming light of Christ and yet forward to a fuller light still to come and illuminate our darkness.

The service is divided into four sections to reflect faith's growing anticipation, both of the first coming of Christ and of that day when the prayer 'Thy Kingdom come' is finally and fully answered. Each section features the Advent prayers known as the 'O antiphons' dating from the sixth century and which would have been used at Evening Prayer either side of the Magnificat from 17 to 23 December. They begin with the invocation 'O' and call upon Christ, although never by name. These antiphons are all woven into the familiar Advent hymn 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'.

The Latin root of the familiar word 'Advent' is *veni*. It speaks of 'coming', the coming of Christ in every way.

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The music at this service is sung by the Choir of All Saints with Holy Trinity.  
Organist and Director of Music, Simon Headley

Our choirs are open to new people joining either for regular Sunday services or to sing on special occasions such as this evening. You will find a welcoming and supportive environment. Do speak to Simon or contact him on [music@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk](mailto:music@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk)

### Organ Music before the Service

**Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland** BWV 659 *J.S. Bach* (1685-1750)

### Informal welcome and pre-service announcements

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ **Prelude on 'Veni Emmanuel'** *Sir Edward Bairstow* (1874-1946)

**Introit:** Advent Responsory *Charles Paterson* (1954-2024)

*You are invited to stand, if you feel able, for the congregational hymns, the words for which are in the red book.*

### Hymn 45 O come, O come Emmanuel

### Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ's nativity and also for the day when he shall come to judge the hearts of us all. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the vision of God's perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us. In word and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that God's kingdom will come; and, with John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church.

Let us then pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**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.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting.  
**Amen.**

**Anthem: Earth was waiting, spent and restless**  
French carol melody arr. *Sir Edward Bairstow/Simon Headley*

## **I: THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT**

### **Sentence**

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

Minister        The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:  
**All                And all flesh shall see it together**

### **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 Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

### **Sung Antiphons:**

O Wisdom, coming forth from the Most High, filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth; come and

teach us the way of truth

O Lord of Lords, and ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and gave him the law on Sinai: come with your outstretched arm and ransom us.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 11. 1-5

**Carol: This is the truth sent from above**

English Traditional arr. *Ralph Vaughan Williams* (1872-1958)

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

**Hymn 30 Come, thou long-expected Jesus**

## **II: THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Sentence**

O people of Sion, behold the Lord is nigh at hand to redeem the nations, and in the gladness of your heart the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard.

Minister: Declare his honour unto the nations:

**All: And his wonders unto all people**

### **Collect**

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Sung Antiphons:**

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations; kings will keep silence before you for whom the nations long; come and save us and delay no longer.

O Key of David, and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison, and break down the walls of death.

**Third Reading:** Micah 4. 1-4

**Anthem: Zion hears the watchmen's voices** BWV 140 *J.S. Bach*

**Fourth Reading:** Luke 4. 14-21

**Hymn 38 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding**

## **III: THE PROPHETIC CALL**

### **Sentence**

Behold, I will send my Messenger and he shall prepare the way before me.

Minister: Prepare ye the way of the Lord:  
**All: Make his paths straight.**

### **Collect**

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

### **Sung Antiphons:**

O morning star, splendour of the light eternal and bright sun of righteousness: come and bring light to those that dwell in darkness and walk in the shadow of death.

O king of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: cornerstone, binding all together: come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust of the earth.

**Fifth Reading:** Malachi 3. 1-7

**Anthem: This is the record of John** *Orlando Gibbons* (1583– 1625)

**Sixth Reading:** Matthew 3. 1-11

**Hymn 36 Hark the glad sound! The saviour comes**

## **IV: THE GOD-BEARER**

### **Sentence**

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, 'God with us.'

Minister Unto us a child is born:  
**All Unto us a Son is given.**

### **Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst stoop to raise our fallen race by the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen thy glory manifested in our flesh, and thy love perfected in our weakness, may daily be renewed in thine image, and conformed to the likeness of thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

### **Sung Antiphon:**

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, hope of the nations and their saviour: come and save us, O Lord our God.

**Carol: Advent Carol** *Richard Shephard* (1949-2021)

**Seventh Reading:** Luke 1. 39-49

**Canticle: The Magnificat** (Short Service) *Thomas Weelkes* (1576 - 1623)

**Eighth Reading:** John 3. 1-8

**Hymn 37 Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing**

Minister: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:  
**All: For he hath visited and redeemed his people.**

### **The Christmas Collect**

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

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.

**Hymn 41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending**

Organ Voluntary: **Toccata-Prelude on 'Wachet auf'** (Op. 19i)  
*Francis Jackson* (1917-2022)

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## **Forthcoming Christmas Services and Events**

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Church open Saturdays and Thursdays from 29th Nov—20th Dec. 10am until 4pm. Refreshments, raffle, tombola, stalls and on Saturdays, children's crafts. Entrance FREE..

### **Tuesday 2nd December, Christmas Lunchtime Concert**

1.30pm Loughborough Schools Foundation Wind and Brass Ensembles .Entrance FREE

### **Thursday 11th December, 7.30pm Christmas Tree Festival Concert**

All Saints Handbell Ringers, Magic Voices Choir and Loughborough Male Voice Choir. Tickets £10 from our website [allsaintsloughborough.org.uk](http://allsaintsloughborough.org.uk), light refreshments included

### **Monday 15th December, 6.30pm Michael Harry and Friends**

Contemporary Soulful Christmas Concert. Pay as you feel.

### **Tuesday 16th December, 2.00pm Christmas Through The Ages**

History of Christmas celebrations in music and readings. Light refreshments included in £10 ticket price.

### **Thursday 18th December 7.00pm, Mayor's Community Carol Service**

### **Saturday 20th December 7.00pm, Beer and Carols**

Any Order band and Quorn Ukelele orchestra. Tickets £5.

### **Sunday 21st December 4.00pm, Nine Lessons and Nine Carols**

### **Christmas Eve 4.00pm, Crib Service**

A service for children and families

### **Christmas Eve 11.30pm, Midnight Mass**

A traditional Eucharist for the first communion of Christmas Incense will be used at this service.

### **Christmas Day 10.00am, Celebration Communion**

A joyous service for all ages on Christmas morning.

**More information and can be found on our webpage [allsaintsloughborough.org.uk](http://allsaintsloughborough.org.uk)**