AN ADVENT PROCESSION

Sunday 29th November 2026
6:30 PM
St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor



Before the Service:
Choral Prelude on *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* – Johannes Brahms
Choral Prelude on *Rorate Coeli* - Jeanne Demessieux

The choir and clergy assemble at the West End of the church, and the lights are dimmed

Remain SEATED as the choir sings
Matin Responsory – G P da Palestrina

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 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?

All STAND
BIDDING PRAYERS

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.
The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All **and also with you.**

My brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

The whole congregation prays silently, after which the president draws the prayers together in the Collect of 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;
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,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All **Amen.**

The congregation then joins at the LORD'S PRAYER

Calling in mind that God is coming to meet us just as we are, let us pray together with confidence as our saviour has taught us:

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
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. (All)
O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. (Lower voices)
O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.
Rejoice! …

3. (Upper Voices)
O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

4. (Lower voices)
O Come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

5. (All)
O come, O come, Adonaï,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed in awe,
Gavest thy folk the elder Law.

1st LESSON (please sit)
Psalm 85

Lord, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah
You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

CHOIR
Rorate Coeli – Francisco Guerrero

Rorate caeli desuper
et nubes pluant iustum.

Aperiatur terra
et germinet salvatorem.
Ostende nobis, Domine,
Misericordiam tuam,
Et salutare tuum da nobis.
Veni, Domine, et noli tardare.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down
righteousness:
let the earth open,
and let it bring forth a Saviour.
Reveal to us, Lord,
your mercy,
and give your salvation to us:
Come, Lord, and do not delay.

2nd LESSON
Haggai 2: 6-9

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts.
The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

HYMN (please stand)
Hills of the North Rejoice

1.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.

2.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.

3.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.

4.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.

5.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 sons of earth be blest.

(candles are extinguished)

3rd LESSON (please sit)
Luke 1: 26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CHOIR
Ave Maria – Felix Mendelssohn

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.

4th LESSON
Isaiah 35. 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

CHOIR

Song and Hymn of Peace – C V Stanford

There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse,
and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;
and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins,
and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
and a little child shall lead them.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain:
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord,
as the waters cover the sea.

And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes,
neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

And with righteousness shall he judge the poor,
and reprove with equity the meek of the earth:

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse,
which shall stand for an ensign unto the people;
and his rest shall be glorious.

Pray that Jerusalem may have peace and felicity;
let them that love thee and thy peace have still prosperity.

Therefore I wish that peace may still within thy walls remain,
and ever may thy palaces prosperity retain.

Now for my friends' and brethren's sakes,
peace be to thee, I'll say;
and for the house of God our Lord
I'll seek thy good alway.

5th LESSON
Luke 1:67–79

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:
“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, [70]as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

HYMN (please stand)
Hark! A herald voice is calling

1. Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.

2. He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace,
Enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And Heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.

6th LESSON (please stay standing)
Isaiah 40: 25-31

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

CHOIR (please sit)
Seek him that maketh the seven stars – Jonathan Dove

Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion and turneth the shadow of death into the morning. Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, and the night is light about me. Amen

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light.
Come, O Lord, comfort the soul of your servant.

All **Even so, Lord, come.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, come

All **at evening time, with light,**

and in the morning, with your glory,

All **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 and morning star.

All **Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN (please stand)
Lo, he comes with clouds descending

1. 3.

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

2.
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 worshipers;
With what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4.
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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

(Please face the baptistry to receive God's 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 with you this Advent and for ever.

All **Amen**

We wait for your loving-kindness, O God,
All **in the midst of your temple.**
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
All **who made heaven and earth.**
Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain STANDING while the choir and the clergy leave, after which you are invited to SIT for the ORGAN VOLUNTARY:
Ricercar on *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* – George Baker

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