A SERVICE OF MUSIC AND READINGS FOR ADVENT

Sunday 29th November 2020
6.00 pm
Online
The service is led by Andrew Bowyer, Dean of Divinity.

The Choir is directed by Mark Williams, Informator Choristarum, and the organ is played by Alexander Pott, Assistant Organist & Tutor to the Choristers, and Romain Bornes, Organ Scholar and Music undergraduate.

After the clock strikes, the College Choir sings:

Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness:
Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people;
my salvation shall not tarry.
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions.
Fear not, for I will save thee;
For I am the Lord thy God,
the holy one of Israel, thy redeemer.
Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

Words: The Advent Prose, cf. Isaiah 45
Music: Judith Weir (b. 1954)

The Dean of Divinity says:

‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to them’

Revelation 2: 20

‘Lift up your heads, O ye gates; be lifted up ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.’

Psalm 24: 7
The Dean of Divinity says the **BIDDING PRAYER:**

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.

**O** ur Father, which art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy name.
    thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done,
    in earth as it is in heaven.
    Give us this day our daily bread;
    And forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive them that 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.
The College Choir sings the Hymn:

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.

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! Rejoice! …

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! …

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! …

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the elder law.
Rejoice! Rejoice! …

Words: Latin Advent Antiphons, trans. J.M. Neale (1818–1866)
PROPE est Dominus omnipus invocantibus eum; omnipus qui invocant eum in veritate. Laudem Domini loquetur os meum et benedicat omnis caro, benedicat nomen sanctum ejus. Veni Domine et noli tardare. Relaxa facinora plebis tuae Israel.

THE Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him; all that call upon him in truth.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless His holy name for ever and ever. Come, Lord, and do not delay; Pardon the misdeeds of your people Israel.

Words: Gradual and Alleluia for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Roman rite)

based on Psalm 144

Music: Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)

The Head Chorister reads:

COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.
O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the LORD God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40: 1–11

The Choristers sing:

Adam lay y bounden  
Bounden in a bond;  
Four thousand winter,  
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took.  
As clerkes finden,  
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our ladie  
Abeen heav’ne queen.

Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
Deo gracias!

Words: Anonymous (15th century)  
Music: Peter Warlock (1894–1930)
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.

continued…
Shout, while ye 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.

Words: based on Charles Oakley (1832–1865)
Music: LITTLE CORNARD, Martin Shaw (1875–1958)

The Senior Academical Clerk reads:

GR EAT is the Lord, and highly to be praised
     in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill.
The hill of Sion is a fair place, and the joy of the whole earth;
upon the north-side lieth the city of the great King; God is well known
in her palaces as a sure refuge.
For lo, the kings of the earth are gathered, and gone by together.
They marvelled to see such things,
    they were astonished, and suddenly cast down.
Fear came there upon them, and sorrow as upon a woman in her travail.
Thou shalt break the ships of the sea through the east-wind.
Like as we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts,
in the city of our God;
    God upheldeth the same for ever.
We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.
O God, according to thy Name, so is thy praise unto the world’s end;
    thy right hand is full of righteousness.
Let the mount Sion rejoice, and the daughter of Judah be glad
because of thy judgements.
Walk about Sion, and go round about her, and tell the towers thereof.
Mark well her bulwarks, set up her houses,
    that ye may tell them that come after.
For this God is our God for ever and ever; he shall be our guide unto
death.

Psalm 48
The Consort of Voices (Decani) sings:

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne’er can tell
the glory which I now can see
in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
‘tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I’m weary with my former toil,
here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

The College Choir (Cantoris) sings the HYMN:

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.

continued…
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.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

A Chapel Sacristan reads:

Now when Zechariah was serving as a priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.’

Luke 1: 8-17
The College Choir (Decani) sings:

THIS is the record of John,
When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No.
Then said they unto him, What art thou?
That we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

Words: Based on John 1: 19–23  Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

The Academical Clerks sing:

OF one that is so fair and bright,
Velut maris stella
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me, Tam pia
That I may come to thee. Maria!

All this world was forlorn,
Eva peccatrice
Till our Lord was y-born,
De te genetrice
With ‘Ave’ it went away,
Darkest night, and comes the day, Salutis
The well springeth out of thee. Virtutis.
Lady, flow’r of ev’rything,
*Rosa sine spina*
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven’s King,
*Gratia divina*
Of all thou bear’st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise, *Electa*
Maid mild, mother es *Effecta. Effecta.*

Words: *Anon. (c. 1300)*  
Music: *Steven Griffin (b. 1969; Academical Clerk 1988–1991)*

*A Fellow of the College reads:*

IN the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.
And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the LORD is with thee: blessed art thou among women.
And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.
And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.
He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the LORD God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:
And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.
Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?
And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the LORD; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

_Luke 1: 26–38_

_The Consort of Voices (Cantoris) sings:_

**The Consort of Voices (Cantoris) sings:**

**HERE is no rose of such virtue**  
As is the rose that bare Jesu;  
_Alleluia._

For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space;  
_Res miranda._

By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in persons three,  
_Pares forma._

Then leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth;  
_Transeamus._

Words: _Anonymous (15th century)_  
Music: _John Joubert (1927–2019)_

_The Founder’s Chaplain reads:_

_THEN I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’_
And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.’

Revelation 21: 1–7

The College Choir sings:

LET all mortal flesh keep silence,
and stand with fear and trembling,
and lift itself above all earthly thought.
For the King of kings and Lord of lords,
Christ our God, cometh forth to be our oblation,
and to be giv’n for Food to the faithful.
Before Him come the choirs of angels,
with ev’ry principality and pow’r;
the Cherubim with many eyes, and winged Seraphim,
who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn, Alleluia.

Words: From the Liturgy of St James
Music: Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

The Fellows’ Chaplain reads the COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY:

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.
The College Choir sings the **Hymn**:

O! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:

Alleluya! [*repeat twice*]

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, [*repeat twice*]
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, [*repeat twice*]
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:

O come quickly! [*repeat twice*]
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)
Music: Helmsley T. Oliver (1725–1799)
Descant by John Scott (1956–2015)
The Dean of Divinity gives the Blessing:

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for eternal life;

May God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light;

May God the Holy Ghost, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness:

+ And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, rest upon you and remain with you, this night and always.

Amen.

The service concludes with the Organ Voluntary:

Nun komm der heiden Heiland BWV 661

J.S. Bach
(1685–1750)

If you are able to, please do support the Chapel’s chosen charity for Michaelmas Term, the Porch Day Centre, which provides services for those sleeping rough and for the vulnerably housed. www.theporch.org.uk

For more information on the Chapel and Choir of Magdalen College, please visit

www.magd.ox.ac.uk or www.magdalencollegechoir.com

For further information on joining the Friends of the Choir, whose support enables the Choir to undertake concerts, recordings and tours, please contact the Informator Choristarum via the Chapel & Choir Office.

Front cover illustration: Detail from Magdalen College MS LAT 223, Gospel Lectionary commissioned by Cardinal Wolsey (1529, London)