

St Alban's Anglican Church, Epping

# SERVICE OF ADVENT HYMNS, PRAYERS AND LESSONS



Sunday 1 December 2024  
10.00am

Officiant: The Reverend Phil Lui  
Reflection: The Reverend Phil Lui  
Organist and Music Director: Chris Czerwinski  
St Alban's Choir

## GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

*When the church bell is rung please stand*

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Officiant: Advent is here!

We rejoice in the God who fulfils his purposes, the God who keeps his promises. We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus the promised Messiah, in whom God came to share our human lives: by word and deed he spread God's light, dying to bring us forgiveness and reconciliation, and rising to bring us new life and a sure hope. We rejoice also in the assurance that Christ will return in glory at the time of God's choosing, bringing judgement on all that is evil, and bringing all his people the blessings of his eternal kingdom.

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### HYMN

1 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.*

Minister: O come Emmanuel, God with us, and bring peace to the people of your Holy Land, the people of Israel and Palestine, and to the people of all nations.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon.**

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high!  
Who madest all in earth and sky,  
Creating man from dust and clay:  
To us reveal salvation's way.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Minister: O come, Wisdom of God, and show the leaders of nations and all people the way to justice, reconciliation and peace.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon.**

3 O come, O come, Adonai,  
Who in thy glorious majesty  
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,  
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Minister: O come, Lord God, that your ways may be known to all nations, and your Gospel known to all peoples.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon.**

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw  
The quarry from the lion's claw;  
From those dread caverns of the grave,  
From nether hell, thy people save.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Minister: O come, Root of Jesse, Son of David, and save your people from sin,  
death and judgement.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon.**

5 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! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Minister: O come, Lord of David's key, true king of Israel, and help us to obey and  
serve you, to live as your servants, and to rejoice in hope.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon.**

6 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! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Minister: O come, Dayspring of God, herald of the new day, come and strengthen  
us to live in hope as we look forward to the fulfilment of your promises.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon.**

7 O come, Desire of nations! show  
Thy kingly reign on earth below;  
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,  
Restore the ruin of our fall.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Minister: O come, desire of Nations: we give you thanks for your coming at  
Bethlehem, for your life, death and resurrection for us, and for the  
promise of your kingdom.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon.**

Minister: Thankful for your love and faithfulness we are confident to pray:

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily  
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the  
kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Officiant:

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light in our darkness.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Bring hope into the lives of all people.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Bless us as we gather in your name.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by your Spirit, that we may indeed walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

Let us take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection and prayer, that we may be open to God's truth and God's love.

**We will set aside time to listen to God's voice, to be open to his message, and to be thankful for his blessings in Christ.**

The good news of Advent is this: Christ has come, and Christ will come again.

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will be open to the guidance of his Spirit as we go forth from this place in hope.**

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

### HYMN

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| 1 O day of God, draw near<br>in beauty and in power,<br>come with your timeless judgment now<br>to match our present hour. | 3 Bring justice to our land<br>that all may dwell secure,<br>and firmly build for days to come<br>foundations that endure.       |
| 2 Bring to our troubled minds,<br>uncertain and afraid,<br>the quiet of a steadfast faith,<br>calm of a call obeyed.       | 4 Bring to our world of strife<br>your sovereign word of peace,<br>that war may haunt the earth no more<br>and desolation cease. |
| 5 O day of God, draw near<br>as at creation's birth;<br>let there be light again, and set<br>your justice in the earth.    |  |

Robert Balgarnie Young  
Scott (1899-1987) seek-  
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## READING 1

Isaiah 40.1-8

Reader: Margaret Cummins

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' <sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

## CHOIR

Come, O Jesus, Come to Me - *M Cherubini*

## READING 2

Isaiah 35.1-7, 10

Reader: Anne Lawson

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> 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.' <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

## HYMN

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| 1 | Come, thou long-expected Jesus,<br>Born to set thy people free,<br>From our fears and sins release us,<br>Let us find our rest in thee. | 3 | Born thy people to deliver,<br>Born a child and yet a king,<br>Born to reign in us for ever,<br>Now thy gracious kingdom bring.    |
| 2 | Israel's strength and consolation,<br>Hope of all the earth thou art,<br>Dear desire of every nation,<br>Joy of every longing heart.    | 4 | By thine own eternal Spirit,<br>Rule in all our hearts alone;<br>By thine all-sufficient merit<br>Raise us to thy glorious throne. |

### READING 3

Luke 1.26-35, 38

Reader: Sarah Weaver

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>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.

<sup>38</sup>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

Christ is Come - *D Ogden*

### READING 4

Matthew 3.1-6, 11

Reader: Sue Armitage

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>11</sup> John said, 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

### HYMN

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| 1 Hark! a herald voice is calling:<br>'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;<br>'Cast away the dreams of darkness,<br>O ye children of the day!      | 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,<br>Comes with pardon down from heaven;<br>Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,<br>One and all to be forgiven; |
| 2 Startled at the solemn warning,<br>Let the earth-bound soul arise;<br>Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,<br>Shines upon the morning skies. | 4 So when next he comes in glory,<br>And earth's final hour draws near,<br>May he then as our defender<br>On the clouds of heaven appear.      |
| 5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,<br>To the Father and the Son,<br>With the co-eternal Spirit,<br>While unending ages run. Amen.                   |  |

From the Latin Tr E  
Caswall 1814-78.  
Public domain.

## READING 5

1 Corinthians 15.51-58

Reader: Gillian Taylor

<sup>51</sup>Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' <sup>55</sup> 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

## HYMN

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| <p>1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed!<br/>Great David's greater Son;<br/>Hail, in the time appointed,<br/>His reign on earth begun!<br/>He comes to break oppression,<br/>To set the captive free;<br/>To take away transgression,<br/>And rule in equity.</p> <p>2 He comes with succour speedy<br/>To those who suffer wrong;<br/>To help the poor and needy,<br/>And bid the weak be strong;<br/>To give them songs for sighing,<br/>Their darkness turn to light,<br/>Whose souls, condemned and dying,<br/>Were precious in his sight.</p> <p>5 O'er every foe victorious,<br/>He on his throne shall rest,<br/>From age to age more glorious,<br/>All-blessing and all-blest:<br/>The tide of time shall never<br/>His covenant remove;<br/>His name shall stand for ever;<br/>That name to us is Love.</p> | <p>3 He shall come down like showers<br/>Upon the fruitful earth,<br/>And love, joy, hope, like flowers,<br/>Spring in his path to birth:<br/>Before him on the mountains<br/>Shall peace the herald go;<br/>And righteousness in fountains<br/>From hill to valley flow.</p> <p>4 Kings shall fall down before him,<br/>And gold and incense bring;<br/>All nations shall adore him,<br/>His praise all people sing;<br/>To him shall prayer unceasing<br/>And daily vows ascend;<br/>His kingdom still increasing,<br/>A kingdom without end.</p> |
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James Montgomery (1771-1854) - public domain

## REFLECTION

### PRAYERS

Minister:

God of all nations, have mercy on our broken and divided world, and on those places where there is war, violence, oppression and fear. Bring justice and peace into the hearts and minds of all people. Give us empathy and love so that we may

all learn to live as members of one family and in obedience to your law. We ask this in Jesus' Name. **Amen**

God our heavenly Father, give us a vision of our world as your love would make it; a world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor; a world where the benefits of life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races, nations and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love; and give us the inspiration and courage to build it through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God of time and eternity, we know your presence with us in this moment, and yet we wait for you to come again in the fullness of your glory. You surround us with your generous love; transform our hearts through your grace so that we might give to our society and our world the abundance that we have received. Help us to know ourselves, our gifts, talents and resources. Help us to work with the communities around us to put those talents to good use in the coming of your kingdom. **Amen**

**God of light, shine forth, show us how to bring hope to others.**

**God of mercy, help us to comfort your people and share in their joy.**

**God of hope, make us an Advent people, preparing the way for life in all its fullness. Amen**

### **HYMN**

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|---|---|
| 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,<br>Once for favoured sinners slain;<br>Thousand thousand saints attending<br>Swell the triumph of his train:<br>Alleluya!<br>God appears, on earth to reign. | 3 Those dear tokens of his passion<br>Still his dazzling body bears,<br>Cause of endless exultation<br>To his ransomed worshippers:<br>With what rapture<br>Gaze we on those glorious scars!  |
| 2 Every eye shall now behold him<br>Robed in dreadful majesty;<br>Those who set at nought and sold him,<br>Pierced and nailed him to the tree,<br>Deeply wailing<br>Shall the true Messiah see.     | 4 Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,<br>High on thine eternal throne;<br>Saviour, take the power and glory:<br>Claim the kingdom for thine own:<br>O come quickly!<br>Alleluya! Come, Lord, come! |

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) -Public Domain

### **BLESSING**

Officiant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Saviour Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be filled with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please stay for morning tea in the main hall.*