



St James's
PICCADILLY

Advent Music and Readings

Advent Light, Radiant Dawn!

An Ecumenical service for
Churches Together in Westminster

Sunday 1st December 2024
at 6pm

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube





The Days Are Surely Coming

by Mike Moyers (2012)

An abstract depicting Advent prophecy fulfilment and promises kept. The ring with the blue pattern also alludes to a robe and crown for the coming Messiah.

Source: Vanderbilt University Divinity Library.

Advent is the season of expectation and contemplation as we anticipate not only the coming of Christ into the world at Christmas but the Second Coming and the end times, the last days.

Contrary to what many believe, this is not so much about the end of the world as it is about the transformation and renewal of the world.

We warmly welcome friends from our neighbouring churches as part of Churches together in Westminster.

ORDER OF SERVICE

At 6pm, please remain seated as the lights dim and the choir sings The Advent Prose.

During the processional, candles are lit.

THE ADVENT PROSE

Please join in singing the responses.

Solo

Drop down, ye heavens from above
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

All

**Drop down, ye heavens from above
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,
neither remember iniquity for ever:
Thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness,
Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and
our beautiful house,
where our fathers praised thee.

**Drop down, ye heavens from above
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us,
because of our iniquities.

**Drop down, ye heavens from above
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:

I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

**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.**

READING: Genesis 1.1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYERS

The Revd Dr Ivan Khovacs

READING: Isaiah 9.2, 6-7

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

HYMN

[Tune: Kingsfold; Words: Alan Hinton]

The prophets' voice comes down the years

to teach and to inspire,

to show the nature of our God

in words and deeds and fire;

not to disclose some rigid plan

that God has set in stone,

but to renew the promises

the saints have always known.

The prophets' voice speaks of the past -

the actions that reveal

the way God used the people then

this broken world to heal;

and then translates the things gone by

**in ways that we find new
so we can judge the world we know
by standards ever true.**

**The prophets' voice holds up a glass
in which to see our day;
events which span the globe around
and things we do and say.
It calls us to repent and turn
from things that tear life down,
to choose the path that Jesus chose
and share his work and crown.**

READING: Isaiah 40.1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
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.

A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
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.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

CHOIR: O Radiant Dawn

[Words: 'O' Antiphon from the Magnificat at Vespers, Dec. 21, Isaiah 9:2; Music: James MacMillan]

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice, come shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied,

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

READING: 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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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: I Saw A Maiden

[Words: 15th century; Music: Basque Noel; arranged with refrain by Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)]

I saw a maiden sitting and sing.
She lulled her child, a little Lording:

*Lullay, lullay; my dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay, lullay, my dear heart,
My own dear dearing.*

This very Lord, he made all things,
And this very God, the King of all Kings.

There was sweet music at this child's birth,
And heav'n filled with angels, making much mirth.

Heav'n's angels sang to welcome the child
Now born of a maid, all undefiled.

Pray we and sing on this festal day,
That peace may dwell with us always.

REFLECTION AND PRAYERS

The Revd Dr Ivan Khovacs

ending with ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*During the congregational carol, a collection will be taken.
If you don't have cash, please use one of the tap donation
points in the church or the QR code on page 15 to make a
donation to our **Christmas for All** appeal.*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

[Tune: Little Cornard; Words: Charles Edward Oakley
(1832-1865) alt.]

**Hills of the north, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
God who made earth and skies:
who comes in righteousness and love,
who brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the southern seas
sing to the list'ning earth,
carry on ev'ry 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,
Christ 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 heav'nly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
Christ brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in ev'ry mouth,
lo, from the north they come,
from east and west and south:
in Christ all people find their rest,

READING: '... That Passeth All Understanding'
by Denise Levertov

An awe so quiet
I don't know when it began.

A gratitude
had begun
to sing in me.

Was there
some moment
dividing
song from no song?

When does dewfall begin?

When does night
fold its arms over our hearts
to cherish them?

When is daybreak?

CHOIR: Adam Lay Y Bounden

[Words, anon. 15th century; music by Boris Ord (1897-1961)]

Adam Lay ybounden
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 lady
A-been heavene queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias.

Please stand.

READING: John 1.1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might

believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

As we sing the hymn, we move into the courtyard to gather around the Advent fire.

HYMN

[Words: from 'Great O antiphons' [12th-13th c.] trans. J.M. Neale [1818-1866]; Tune: Veni Emmanuel]

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou wisdom from on high,
and order all things, far and nigh
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.**

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**O come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

**O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

**O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call.**

BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ,
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.
Let us in this holy season of Advent
reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world.

Come, O Lord, illumine our path and comfort your people.
Even so, Lord, come.

O Lord Jesus Christ, come
at evening time, with light,

And in the morning, with your glory, come
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Christ our radiant dawn says:
Surely I come quickly;
I am the root and offspring of David,
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the Beginning and the End.
I am the bright and morning star.
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

CHOIR: Vesper Responsory for Advent

[Words: liturgical; Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)]

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed:
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.

Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ,
and to the Holy Spirit
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;
World without end. Amen.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord will be with you.

THE BLESSING

The priest says

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness
Shine in any darkness that you know:
and the blessing of God; Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

May Christ find us watching and waiting:
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Please join us for refreshments in the church. All are welcome.



Let's make Christmas Special for All

In 1684 Sir Christopher Wren's vision of St James's as a place of beauty and justice became a reality.

We often use words like home and family, when we talk about Christmas, as we gather to celebrate with love and joy.

Yet, we should remember that for others there is no home, and many feel little love or joy at this time of year.

So, we invite you to help the work of St James's and those who turn to us for love, help and comfort. Your donation, whatever you can afford, will help us bring joy and hope into the lives of others this Christmas.

Ways to donate:

Using your phone, simply Text the word ALL followed by £10* or more to the number **70490**

Tap your card on a contactless giving device located in the church.

Visit our website www.sjp.org.uk/christmas or scan this code QR code.



Christmas 2024 at St James's Church

Blue Christmas: Sunday 8th Dec at 3pm

All are welcome to this reflective service with familiar carols, a space for those who find celebrating difficult at Christmas.

Carols for All: Saturday 7th & 14th, Wednesday 18th, Friday 20th, and Saturday 21st Dec at 1.10pm

Sing along with the St James's Singers and brass ensemble to get into the festive spirit. Tickets at www.sjp.org.uk/christmas/

Festival of Lessons and Carols: Sunday 15th Dec at 6pm

All are welcome to join the parish carol service with scripture, poetry, and music from our Lay Singers and Music Scholars.

Christmas by Candlelight: Sunday 15th Dec at 8pm

Popular carols and festive music with St James's Singers and brass ensemble. Tickets at www.sjp.org.uk/christmas/

Carols for Shoppers

Tuesday 17th Dec at 2.30pm and 5.30pm

Join young musicians and singers from the Royal College of Music as the Christmas story is told in scripture, poetry, and carols. Tickets at www.sjp.org.uk/christmas/

Christmas Eve Carols: Tuesday 24th Dec at 4pm

The Christmas story with choir, trumpets and congregational carols.

Midnight Mass: Tuesday 24th Dec at 11.30pm

All are welcome to our midnight Eucharist with carols.

Christmas Day Eucharist: Wednesday 25th Dec at 11am

Join us for our Christmas Day Eucharist with carols, followed by lunch in the church.

