

The Parish Church of St Anne, Kew



Advent Sunday Evening Devotion

Sunday 29 November 2020

Looking for light

The theme of our Advent worship prepares us for the great feast of the Incarnation - God made man in Jesus Christ. Tonight's service begins in darkness reminding us of a world without the light of Christ; gradually, as we hear God's word, the building is illuminated reminding us of lives lived in the light of Christ.

Today our world sits in darkness, the darkness and loneliness of pandemic. The light that came into the world on that first Christmas Day is the same light that can shine in the darkness present in the world today. Tonight we look for the light and pray that that light will shine in our lives and in the lives of all who sit in darkness.

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INTRODUCTION

Matin Responsory Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 - 94)

Processional Hymn

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.

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.

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.

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.

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.

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.

O come Desire of nations! show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.

Cologne 1710, based on the
ancient Advent Antiphons
Tr T A Lacey 1853-1931 and Editors

O Sapientia

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti,
O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High,
atingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter,
pervading and permeating all creation,
suaviter disponensque omnia:
mightily ordering all things:
Veni, ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.
come and teach us the way of prudence.

First Reading
Genesis 1:1-5

‘And God said: Let there be light’.

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.

May your word live in us
And bear much fruit to your glory

Verbum supernum prodiens Words: Anon. 7th century
Music: Josquin des Prez (1450 - 1521)

O Adonai

O Adonai, et dux domus Israel,
O Adonai, and ruler of the house of Israel,
qui Moisi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
et ei in Syna legem dedisti:
and gave him the Law in Sinai:
Veni, ad redimendum nos in brachio extento
Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

Second Reading
Psalm 13

'Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death'.

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory

Conditor alme siderum Text: Anon. 7th century

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Antiphon

O Radix Jesse

O Radix Jesse, quistas in signum populorum,

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign of the people,

super quem reges continebunt os suum,

before whom all kings are silent,

quem gentes deprecabuntur:

to whom the nations will make their prayer:

Veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

Come to deliver us, and delay no longer.

Third Reading
Isaiah 45:2-8

'I form light and create darkness'

I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;
I the Lord have created it.

May your word live in us
And bear much fruit to your glory

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.

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.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Antiphon

O Clavis David

O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel,
O Key of David, and sceptre of the house of Israel,
qui aperis et nemo claudit,
who opens and no one can close,
claudis et nemo aperit:
and closes and no one can open:
Veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris,
Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness
sedentem in tenebris et umbra mortis.
and the shadow of death.

Fourth Reading
Isaiah 60:1-5a

'Look to the east'.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory

Jesus Christ the apple tree

Text: Anon. 18th century from *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs*
compiled by Joshua Smith

Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905 - 87)

Antiphon

O Oriens

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae et sol justitiae:

O Dayspring, splendour of light everlasting:

Veni, et illumina sedentem in tenebris

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness

et umbra mortis.

and in the shadow of death.

Fifth Reading
Isaiah 9:2-3,6-7

'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light'

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.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
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.

May your word live in us
And bear much fruit to your glory

Hymn

The Lord will come and not be slow,
His footsteps cannot err;
Before him righteousness shall go,
His royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,
Shall bud and blossom then;
And justice, from her heavenly bower,
Look down on mortal men.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,
This wicked earth redress;
For thou art he who shalt by right
The nations all possess.

The nations all whom thou hast made
Shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before thee, Lord,
And glorify thy name.

For great thou art, and wonders great
By thy strong hand are done:
Thou in thy everlasting seat
Remainest God alone.

*John Milton 1608-74
cento Psalms 85, 82, 86*

Antiphon

O Rex gentium

O Rex gentium, et desideratus earum
O King of the nations, and their Desire,
lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum:
the cornerstone uniting all people:
Veni, salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.
Come and save us all, whom you have formed from clay.

Sixth Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:11, 23-24

‘You are not in darkness, for you are all children of light’.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the

breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory

Magnificat Text: The Gospel of Luke chapter 1 verses 46-55
Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

Antiphon

O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, Rex et Legifer noster,
O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver,
expectatio gentium et Salvator eatum:
the Desire of the nations and their Saviour:
Veni, ad salvandum nos, Domine Deus noster.
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Gospel

John 3:16-21

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

O Radiant Dawn Text: translated from *O Oriens* antiphon
Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Advent Collect

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 forever.

All: Amen.

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 upon you this night and for evermore.

All: Amen

Recessional Hymn

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.

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
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
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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Antiphon

O Virgo virginum

O Virgo virginum, quomodo fiet istud?
O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?
Quia nec primam simile visa es nec habere sequentem
For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after.
Filiae Jerusalem, quid me admiramini?
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?
Divinum est mysterium hoc quod cernitis.
The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.