

## **Advent Carol Service**

### **Reading: Zechariah 9: 9-10**

Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout for joy, daughter of Jerusalem! Look, your king is approaching, he is vindicated and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace to the nations, his empire will stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the limits of the earth.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**     The Choir of Kings College, Cambridge

### **Reading: Isaiah 9: 2,6,7**

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on the inhabitants of a country in shadow dark as death light has blazed forth. For a son has been born for us, a son has been given to us, and dominion has been laid on his shoulders; and this is the name he has been given, 'Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace' to extend his dominion in boundless peace, over the throne of David and over his kingdom to make it secure and sustain it in fair judgement and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord will do this."

### **Advent 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.**

**2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.**

**3. Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4. By thine own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

### **Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-15**

Ask the Lord your God for a sign, either in the depths of Sheol or in the heights above. But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask. I will not put the Lord to the test.' He then said: Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying human patience that you should try my God's patience too? The Lord will give you a sign in any case: It is this: the young woman is with child and will give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel. On curds and honey will he feed until he knows how to refuse the bad and choose the good.

### **Advent hymn**

**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 heaven's eternal arches ring  
With thy beloved name.**

### **Reading: Romans 12: 1-2; 13: 11-14**

I urge you, then, brothers and sisters, remembering the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, dedicated and acceptable to God; that is the kind of worship for you, as sensible people. Do not model your behaviour on the contemporary world, but let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God -- what is good and acceptable and mature. Besides, you know the time has come; the moment is here for you to stop sleeping and wake up, because by now our salvation is nearer than when we first began to believe. The night is nearly over, daylight is on

the way; so let us throw off everything that belongs to the darkness and equip ourselves for the light. Let us live decently, as in the light of day; with no orgies or drunkenness, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ, and stop worrying about how your disordered natural inclinations may be fulfilled.

## **Taizé Chant: The Kingdom of God is Justice and Peace**

*The Kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

*Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.*

## **Reading: St Matthew 25: 1-13**

The kingdom of Heaven will be like this: Ten wedding attendants took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones, though they took their lamps, took no oil with them, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "Look! The bridegroom! Go out and meet him." Then all those wedding attendants woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other attendants arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "In truth I tell you, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.

## **Responsory**

With love and compassion,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

With judgement and mercy,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

In power and glory,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

In wisdom and truth  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

## **Advent hymn**

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

**3. Those dear tokens of his passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshippers:  
With what rapture, with what rapture ....  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**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, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.**

**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! O come quickly! .....  
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

## **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 .....