



**YORK  
MINSTER**

The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

# **ADVENT PROCESSION**

**The First Sunday of Advent**

**3 December 2023**

**at 5.30 pm**

In the Middle Ages, the Church kept Advent as a season of great solemnity—a time in which to meditate upon the ultimate issues of death, judgement, hell and heaven. Advent, though, was also a time of great rejoicing. For Christ would come, not only as Judge, but also as Saviour, and would usher in the Kingdom of God. Advent provided a vivid preparation for Christmas. Processions from west to east, and the use of lights, spoke of the Church's hope in the coming of Christ—the Light of the world—to banish sin and darkness. Antiphons were sung, calling upon God to deliver his people, and readings from the Old Testament were seen as pointing to the fulfilment of God's purposes in Jesus.

This Service aims to recapture something of that Advent longing and hope. It begins in darkness with the choir and clergy gathering at the West End of the Minster. The Blessing of Light follows and, as the Service unfolds, the Light is carried to other parts of the Church as the Procession moves from west to east. The remainder of the Service is structured around the great Advent Antiphons, known as the 'Great Os'. These were sung originally as Antiphons to the Magnificat at the Evening Office from 17 to 23 December, and have provided a rich source of devotional imagery in Advent. The readings and music serve to complement the Antiphons, and help us reflect on the theme of the Christ who comes to judge and save his people. The Antiphons are gathered together in the hymn, *O come, O come, Emmanuel*. The Service ends in quiet but confident hope in the one who is to come. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

*The service is sung by the Choir of York Minster and the Great Advent Antiphons are sung by The Ebor Singers, placed at some distance from the Minster Choir. The readings are read by those who work, volunteer and worship at the Minster.*

## Lighting the Candles

*The robed candle-bearers light the candles of the people at the end of each row. It is simplest for the lit candle to be held vertically, with the unlit candle held towards it horizontally. Please pass the light along the row, but not forwards.*

*The use of private cameras, tape recorders and video recorders is prohibited. Please make sure that mobile telephones are switched off.*

## Organ music before the service

Prelude on 'Rorate Caeli'	Jeanne Demessieux
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 660	Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude and Fugue in G minor	Johannes Brahms
O Antiphons	Cecilia McDowall
O Radix Jesse	
O Clavis David	
O Oriens	
O Rex Gentium	
Overture to 'St Paul'	Felix Mendelssohn

*Please remain seated in silence as the procession moves to the West End of the Minster. The chorale prelude Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 (Now come, Saviour of the nations) by J S Bach, is played, and the lights in the Minster are extinguished.*

## The Blessing of the Light

*As lights at the Lectern and the choir lights are lit, the congregation stands and faces West.*

*The choir sings the ADVENT RESPONSORY:*

*I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth.*

*Go ye out to meet him and say:*

*Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?*

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep.

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth.*

*Go ye out to meet him and say:*

*Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?*

*Words* Matins of the First Sunday in Advent in the Sarum Breviary

*Music* G P da Palestrina (1525–94) adapted by David Willcocks (1919–2015)

*A cantor and the choir sing:*

You, O Lord are my lamp: you turn our darkness into light.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life: in your light shall we see light.

Your word is a lantern to my feet: and a light upon our path.

*The Advent Candle is lit.*

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world: a light no darkness can quench.

*Words* PSALMS 18.28, 36.9, 119.105, and after JOHN 8.12, 1.5

*The Dean says:*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe,  
eternal creator of day and night.  
Now, as darkness has fallen, hear the prayer of your faithful people.  
Wash away our transgressions, cleanse us by your refining fire,  
and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.  
May we live in watchfulness  
as we wait for the coming of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who shall judge the world and all its works.  
Rouse us from the sleep of sin, and make us ready to enter your kingdom,  
where songs of praise for ever sound.  
For you are the true light, who lightens everyone,  
and the new heavens and the new earth join to sing your praise,  
now and for evermore.  
**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## The Word of God

### First Antiphon: O Sapientia

*during which the procession moves to the North Nave Aisle*

**O** WISDOM, which camest out of the mouth of the most High,  
and reachest from one end to another,  
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:  
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

### First Reading

The Wisdom of God, the creator of all, dwells with God's people.

‘I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist.  
I dwelt in the highest heavens,  
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.  
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven  
and traversed the depths of the abyss.

‘Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
and over every people and nation I have held sway.  
Among all these I sought a resting-place;  
in whose territory should I abide?

‘Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.  
He said, “Make your dwelling in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance.”  
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.’

ECCLESIASTICUS 24.3–9

*The choir sings:*

1. Adam lay ybounden,  
bounden in a bond;  
four thousand winter  
thought he not too long.

2. And all was for an apple,  
an apple that he took,  
as clerkes finden  
written in their book.

3. Ne had the apple taken been,  
the apple taken been,  
ne had never our lady  
a been heavene queen.

4. Blessed be the time  
that apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen  
*Deo gratias.*

*Words* Anonymous fifteenth-century English verse ♦ *Music* Howard Skempton (*b* 1947)

## Second Antiphon: O Adonai

*during which the procession moves to the South Nave Aisle*

**O** ADONAI, and leader of the house of Israel,  
who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire,  
and gavest him the Law in Sinai:  
Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

## Second Reading

Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush,  
and the giving of the Commandments.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

EXODUS 3.1-6

*The choir sings:*

1. Creator of the stars of night,  
thy people's everlasting light;  
O Jesu, save us all,  
and hear thy servants when they call.
2. Thou, grieving that the ancient curse  
should doom to death a universe,  
hast found the med'cine, full of grace,  
to save and heal a ruin'd race.
3. Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,  
as drew the world to evening-tide,  
proceeding from a Virgin shrine,  
the spotless Victim all divine.
4. To Him, who comes the world to free,  
to God the Son, all glory be;  
to God the Father, as is meet,  
to God the blessèd Praclète. Amen.

*Words* Anonymous seventh-century Latin hymn

translated into English by the Revd John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and others

*Music* Charlotte Baskerville (*b* 1994)

## Third Antiphon: O Radix Jesse

*during which the procession moves to the South Transept*

**O** ROOT OF JESSE, which standest for an ensign of the people,  
at whom kings shall shut their mouths,  
to whom the Gentiles shall seek:  
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

## Third Reading

God's spirit will rest upon the one who is to come from the root of Jesse,  
that is, the royal house of David.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations  
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

ISAIAH II.1-4a, 10

*The choir sings:*

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace, as ancient seers imparted,  
from Jesse's holy race; It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak  
winter, turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us from Jesse's root should spring; The Virgin Mary  
brought us the branch of which we sing; Our God of endless might, gave her this  
child to save us, thus turning darkness into light.

*Words* Anonymous fifteenth-century German poem versified by Otto Goldschmidt (1829–  
1907) and translated into English by William Bartholomew (1793–1867)

*Music* Kerensa Briggs (b 1991)

## Fourth Antiphon: O Clavis David

*during which the procession moves to the North Transept*

**O** KEY OF DAVID, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest and no man shuttest, and shuttest, and no man openeth: Come and bring the prisoner out of the prison-house, and him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

## Fourth Reading

God's rule will bring peace.

On that day I will call my servant and will clothe him with your robe and bind your sash on him. I will commit your authority to his hand, and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open. I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his ancestral house.

ISAIAH 22.20-23

*The choir sings:*

Hosanna to the son of David.  
Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, thou that sittest in the highest heavens.  
Hosanna in excelsis Deo.

*Words* Matthew 21, Luke 19 ♦ *Music* Thomas Weelkes (c 1574-1623)

*Please stand.*



# Hymn



- |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Hills of the North, rejoice;<br>river and mountain-spring,<br>hark to the advent voice;<br>valley and lowland, sing.<br>Christ comes in righteousness and love,<br>he brings salvation from above. | 3. Lands of the East, arise,<br>he is your brightest morn,<br>greet him with joyous eyes,<br>praise shall his path adorn:<br>your seers have longed to know their Lord;<br>to you he comes, the final word. |
| 2. Isles of the Southern seas,<br>sing to the listening earth,<br>carry on every breeze<br>hope of a world's new birth:<br>In Christ shall all be made anew,<br>his word is sure, his promise true.   | 4. Shores of the utmost West,<br>lands of the setting sun,<br>welcome the heavenly guest<br>in whom the dawn has come:<br>he brings a never-ending light<br>who triumphed o'er our darkest night.           |
5. Shout, as you journey home,  
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 universe be blest.

*Words* AM 39, editors of *English Praise* (1975) based on Charles Ernest Oakley (1832–1865)  
*Tune* LITTLE CORNARD, AM 39, Martin Shaw (1875–1958)

*Please sit.*

## Fifth Antiphon: O Oriens

*during which the procession moves to the Centre of the Nave*

**O** DAYSPRING, brightness of light everlasting,  
and sun of righteousness:  
Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness  
and the shadow of death.

## Fifth Reading

The preaching of John the Baptist  
and the coming of Christ the light are foretold.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

MALACHI 4.1-6

*The choir sings:*

- |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Peace be to you and grace from him<br>Who freed us from our sins,<br>Who loved us all and shed his blood<br>That we might saved be. | 3. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,<br>Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,<br>For Christ is coming, is coming soon,<br>For Christ is coming soon! |
| 2. Sing holy, holy to our Lord,<br>The Lord, Almighty God,<br>Who was and is and is to come;<br>Sing holy, holy, Lord!                 | 4. E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,<br>And night shall be no more;<br>They need no light nor lamp nor sun,<br>For Christ will be their all!                 |

*Words* Revelation 22 adapted by Ruth Manz  
*Music* Paul Manz (1919-2009)

## Sixth Antiphon: O Rex Gentium

*during which the procession moves to the Nave Sanctuary*

**O** KING OF THE NATIONS, and their desire;  
the Cornerstone, who makes both one:  
Come and save mankind,  
whom thou formest of clay.

## Sixth Reading

All the nations will come to the light of Christ.

Alas! that day is so great  
there is none like it;  
it is a time of distress for Jacob;  
yet he shall be rescued from it.

On that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will break the yoke from off his neck, and I will burst his bonds, and strangers shall no more make a servant of him. But they shall serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

But as for you, have no fear, my servant Jacob, says the Lord,  
and do not be dismayed, O Israel;  
for I am going to save you from far away,  
and your offspring from the land of their captivity.  
Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease,  
and no one shall make him afraid.  
For I am with you, says the Lord, to save you;

JEREMIAH 30.7-11a

*The choir sings:*

O thou the central orb of righteous love,  
pure beam of the most high, eternal light  
of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright  
awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,  
gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine;  
thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,  
as stars about thy throne, set in the height  
of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight  
gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
our nature all shall feel eternal day,  
in fellowship with thee, transforming clay  
to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*Words* Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833–1917)

*Music* Charles Wood (1866–1926)

*Please stand.*

## Hymn



1. Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,  
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!  
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?  
Is it the music of his people's prayer?
2. Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices  
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;  
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,  
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!
3. This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?  
This shall he do, and can we still despair?  
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,  
cast at his feet the burden of our care.
4. Through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning,  
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:  
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,  
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

*Words* AM 37, Frederic William Henry Myers (1843–1901)

*Tune* HIGHWOOD, AM 37, Sir Richard Runciman Terry (1865–1938)

*Please sit for the prayers.*

## The Prayers

*led by the Revd Timothy Goode, Canon for Congregational Discipleship and Nurture.*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*The choir sings:*

*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 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.*

*Words after ISAIAH, Officia Propria, Paris (1673) ♦ Music Sarum Chant*

May God our Father forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom  
where dust and ashes have no dominion.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

## **Seventh Antiphon: O Emmanuel**

**O** EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver,  
the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation:  
Come and save us,  
O Lord our God.

*Please stand.*





## Seventh Reading

The birth of Christ, in fulfilment of the prophecy of the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',  
which means, 'God is with us.'

MATTHEW 1.18–23

*The choir sings:*

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.'

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

*Words* Advent Antiphon for 21 December ♦ *Music* James Macmillan (*b* 1959)

*Please stand.*

# The Dismissal

## The Advent Collect

*The Archbishop says:*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and 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 for ever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

*The Archbishop says:*

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,  
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom. **Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,  
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,  
joyful in hope and constant in love. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

# Hymn

*during which the procession moves from the Sanctuary*



1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ appears on earth to reign.
2. 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, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.
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!
4. Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Words* AM 41, Charles Wesley (1707–1788) and John Cennick (1718–1755)

*Tune* HELMSLEY, AM 41, melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725–1799)

## Organ Voluntaries

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Andrew Carter

*There is a retiring collection which will be given to the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association (JMECA) for their work in Gaza.*

---

Some material in this service is taken from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*, copyright © 2006 The Archbishops' Council, and is used by permission. This compilation is copyright © 2023 The Chapter of York.

## Information about the collection

A few weeks ago, the Archbishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, launched a joint appeal for Gaza, Palestine and Israel. They also appealed for funds to support the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, which was catastrophically damaged at the start of this devastating conflict. For those of you who don't know, the Al Ahli Hospital is supported by the Arab-Christian communities of the Diocese of Jerusalem. Led by Archbishop Hosam, the Diocese covers five territories and is home to 30 parishes. Healthcare and education projects are vital ministries for the diocese which aims to sustain and strengthen the Arab-Christian presence in the region.

Archbishop Hosam and Archbishop Justin's appeal included prayers for everyone affected by the conflict, those working to support the injured, displaced and traumatised, and for the peacemakers striving for a lasting and secure peace for all of the communities in Israel and Palestine. They also asked for your financial support to help the Diocese of Jerusalem continue its urgent work at the Al Ahli Hospital.

The collection taken at this service will go to the Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association (JMECA), the leading Anglican charity supporting the Church throughout the Middle East. Anything you can give would be greatly appreciated.

*The Very Revd Dominic Barrington, Dean of York*



# York Minster Choristers

A life changing opportunity for children who love to sing



SCAN ME



All choristers benefit from a substantial reduction in school fees at St Peter's School and 100% means-tested bursaries are available  
**Apply by 31 December**