From Darkness to Light

Christ Church
December 4, 2016
at 5:00 PM
The Advent Procession

Salisbury Cathedral writes: “The Advent Procession is entitled From Darkness to Light in order to encapsulate in a telling phrase what will happen in the next hour.”

With bible readings and music, the service reminds us that, while our beautiful world is marred by the darkness of human willfulness, greed and violence, the light still shines in this world. That light tonight begins as a flickering candle at the west end, and from it all other lights in the Cathedral are lit. The light that shines in our service represents the light of Jesus Christ shining in our dark world. The light of Christ sees us as we are—unable to disguise the truth of our human condition—but the light of Christ is also the illumination and the warmth, the guiding light, which leads us from darkness into light.

Tonight we will hear sung phrases, drawn from scripture, known as the Advent Antiphons. Each antiphon begins with the word “O”, addressed to God. With one exception, all refer more specifically to Jesus, who is regarded as the fulfillment of Jewish expectation and Old Testament prophecy. There is also a later addition, the antiphon O Virgo Virginum (O Virgin of Virgins), which clearly refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is given prominence among the Advent Antiphons as the human agent called by God to bring forth God’s own word and being.

The pairs of readings from the Old and New Testament (read alternately from the lectern and pulpit) reflect the theological imperatives contained in the antiphons. The readings, darkness and light, stillness and movement, spoken word and song (in unison, plainchant and thundering congregational hymnody) -- all contribute to the multi-layered fabric of the service, inviting us to prepare anew for the coming of our Lord.

Christ Church is indebted to The Rev’d Canon Jeremy Davies (Precentor of Salisbury Cathedral, 1985–2012) and the Chapter and Staff of Salisbury Cathedral for sharing this service with us.
Preparing for Worship

Welcome to Christ Church. This worship bulletin is designed to make it as easy as possible to participate. But there are a few things we suggest you do before the service begins to make following along easier.

- Children’s crayons and paper are available at the rear of the Worship space and at the Ramp door entrance.
- Our CRAWLZone is OPEN during the service for Infants and Toddlers.
- Please turn off your mobile or electronic devices prior to the start of service.

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach

 BWV 645

(1685-1750)

By the conclusion of the Prelude, the house lights will be turned off.

Acolytes will distribute the light to the congregation along the side aisles.

Please do NOT light center aisle candles.

Opening Music

Even so Come

JASON INGRAM, CHRIS TOMLIN and Jess Cates

Orchestrated by Kyle Hill

[Verse 1/Chorus 1/Verse 2, sung by the band vocalists]
The congregation STANDS and turns to face the rear of the Church, where a candle is lit. During the hymn, the procession moves to the Resurrection Transept. The congregation joins at v. 3.

_Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth_

**Children’s Choir**

1. Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth: let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all.

**Adult Choir**

2. Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still the Word of God, in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.
The congregation SITS.

A member of the choir sings the Antiphon, followed by the congregation singing the refrain

O come thou WISDOM from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Cantor: Brendan Fors

Sung by all:
Readings
With you is wisdom, she who knows your works and was present when you made the world; she understands what is pleasing in your sight and what is right according to your commandments.

Send her forth from the holy heavens, and from the throne of your glory send her, that she may labor at my side, and that I may learn what is pleasing to you.

For she knows and understands all things, and she will guide me wisely in my actions and guard me with her glory.  

Wisdom 9: 9–11

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age. But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.  

1 Corinthians 2: 1–7

Carol sung by the Adult choir  
Adam lay ybounden
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 ladie abeen heav’ne queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was, therefore we moun singen.  
Deo gratias!
Music: Boris Ord (1897-1961)

The congregation SITS.

O come, thou DAYSpring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadow put to flight.

Cantor: Tisiphone Hallet
Sung by all: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
Readings

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.

Isaiah 60: 1–3

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1: 76–79

Everyone sings the Refrain and final line of each verse; the verses will be sung by members of the Children’s Choir.

Rain down justice

Verses (sung by the members of the Children’s Choir as indicated):

**Refrain:**

Rain down justice from above, you heavens, Clouds burst open, let the holy one appear. Earth give birth and show the world a Saviour: God has spoken the Holy one is near.

1. Gathering as travelers and pilgrims, with our faces turned to the brightness of the sun. Listening to the words of the promise: **(Duet: Elysia Cornier & Ava Hill)**
   **Sung by all:** He will come, he will surely come. **[Refrain]**

2. Gathering with prophets and teachers, with their vision piercing the watches of the night. Calling out the words of the promise: **(Trio: Isabella Flaherty, Brendan Fors & Calista Hallet)**
   **Sung by all:** He will come, he will surely come. **[Refrain]**

3. Gathering with John the Baptist, in the wilderness, seeking out the Lamb of God. Echoing the words of the promise: **(Duet: Cameron Fors & Zachary Hill)**
   **Sung by all:** He will come, he will surely come. **[Refrain]**

4. Gathering with Mary and Joseph, with their empty hands and hearts on fire with love. Pondering the words of the promise: **(Duet: Tisiphone Hallet & James Roy)**
   **Sung by all:** He will come, he will surely come. **[Refrain]**

Words: Michael O’Connor; Music: David Ogden, FRSCM (b. 1966–) © 2004 The Royal School of Church Music
During the hymn, sung by all, the procession moves to the Baptismal Font.

Into the Darkness
The congregation SITS.

A member of the choir sings the Antiphon, followed by the congregation singing the refrain

O come, thou KEY OF DAVID, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  

Sung by all: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Readings

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 42: 5–7

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Anthem sung by the choir  

**Gaudete, Gaudete! Christus adventus**

Gaudete, gaudete! Christus adventus liberare captivos. Gaudete! Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is coming to set free the captives. Rejoice!

1) Hope of nations, he will show God and man united, the old order overthrow, death and darkness smited! Refrain

2) Peace and mercy he will give all who seek his glory, those who for the Gospel live and proclaim the story! Refrain

3) Joy and triumph he will bring, gladness without measure; shepherd, prophet, priests, and king share this wondrous treasure. Refrain

4) Love and glory he will share from this lowly station; by his life and death prepare to redeem creation! Refrain

*Arrangement & New Text: Robert Potterton III (b. 1986)*

*Music: 16th Century Latin Carol*

As the procession moves to the rear of the Worship Space, the congregation STANDS to sing the hymn.

**On Jordan’s bank**

1. On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry ano-
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose

nunc - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en
straight the way for God with - in, and
re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom
with the Fa - ther
The congregation SITS.

Virgin blest, how shall this be? For none before or after thee Are blest this Myst'ry to behold: The coming of the Lord foretold."

Sung by all: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Readings
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 Counselor, 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.

Isaiah 9: 2, 6–7

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, favored 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 favor 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.’

Luke 1: 26–35
Anthem sung by the choir  Alma redemptoris mater

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo: Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem: Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabriellis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the gate by which we mortals enter heaven, and star of the sea, help your fallen people who strive to rise: You who gave birth, amazing nature, to your sacred Creator: Virgin prior and following, taking from the mouth of Gabriel that "Hail!", have mercy on our sins.

Music: Giovanni da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)

As the procession moves to the choir stalls the congregation STANDS to sing the hymn.

v. 1, Everyone; v.2, High Voices; v.3, Low Voices; v.4, Everyone

Ye who claim the faith of Jesus

Music: Julian David Hurst (b. 1950)
The congregation SITS.
A member of the choir sings the Antiphon, followed by the congregation singing the refrain

O come, DESIRE OF NATIONS, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. Cantor: James Roy

Sung by all: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Readings
The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31: 31–33

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 fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Behold, 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 congregation remains seated to sing

Music

Emmanuel

1. Together in this place of worship your

2. See the praises of our Saviour

Greatness we proclaim. We stand as one in giving You all glory and acclaim.

For re-dep-tion, your glory will arise.

To You our hands we raise. Come our hearts are open, to You our hands we raise.

For You are praised. Our Lord and King forever You will reign.

Em-mu-nuel, our God is with us. Prince of

peace, Mighty One, the ever-living God. Em-

Em-mu-nuel, our God is with us. Prince of
The congregation STANDS, as the Officiant, with choir and congregation, sing the litany.

**Litany: That the Coming of Christ**

1. Officiant
   That the coming of Christ may dispel all darkness. Lord, have mercy.

2. Choir and Congregation
   That the birth of Christ may hollow all life. Lord, have mercy.

3. Officiant
   That the love of Christ may be in every heart. Lord have mercy.
Advent Collect

Officiant:
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen

Advent Blessing

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal. Amen.

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with your always. Amen.
The congregation remains standing to sing the hymn.

Lo! he comes with clouds descending

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for all;
Every eye shall now behold him, robed in glory all:
Those dear tokens of his passion still his love display;
Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on high.

Our salvation slain; thousand and ten thousand
Dreadful majesty; those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
Dazzling body bears, cause of endless power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
Thine eternal throne; Savior, take the train: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Saints attending swell the triumph of his tree, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Exultation to his ransomed worshipers; with what rapture, with what rapture,
Own: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord returns to reign,
Deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.
With what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

The Hymnal 1982

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: Helmsley, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778)
Postlude

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

You are invited to join us for a reception in Guild Hall, immediately following the service.

As you leave the worship space, please give generously to the collection for the work of Christ Church in the world.

From Darkness to Light Participants

Officiant
The Rev. Bennett G. Jones II

Liturgist, Praise Band Leader and Children’s Choir Director
The Rev. Carolyn G. Jones

Organist and Choirmaster
Mr. Robert S. Potterton III

The Adult Choir of Christ Church
Paula Cattel, Carl Fandreyer, Lin Goodwin, Michael Hallet, Evelyn Jimenez, Debra King, Barbara Lagasse, Amy Lindgren, Tom Lindgren, Janel Milner, Gregory Poladian, Priscilla Rush, Don Slovenkai

The Praise Band
George Bourgault, guitar; Cassidy Callahan, violin; Paula Cattel, vocals; David Folding, percussion; Lin Goodwin, sousaphone; Michael Hallet, vocals; Carolyn Wiley, vocals; Joseph Wiley, percussion

The Children’s Choir
Elysia Cornier, Isabella Flaherty, Brendan Fors, Cameron Fors, Calista Hallet, Tisiphone Hallet, Ava Hill, Zachary Hill, James Roy

Readers

Acolytes
Greg Poladian, Christopher King, Christopher Roy, Grace Roy, Lee Anne Fors, Tina Buscemi

Ushers
Cheryl Bourgault, Jac Cattel, Aaron Wiley

Sound
Tom Bedard
The Right Reverend Douglas J. Fisher
9th Bishop of Western Massachusetts

~Parish Staff~

The Rev. Bennett G. Jones II ................................................................. Rector
rector@christchurchfitchburg.org
The Rev. Carolyn G. Jones ............................................................. Associate Rector
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Mrs. Eleanor D. Quirk .............................................................. Parish Nurse
elliequirk@verizon.net
Mrs. Paula Cattel ............................................................. Webmaster/Communications Director
pcattel@yahoo.com

~The 2016 Vestry*~

Vestry Officers
Mrs. Marilyn Benoit .............................................................. Senior Warden
Mr. Dan H. Mylott ............................................................... Junior Warden
Mrs. Paula Cattel .............................................................. Clerk
Mr. Fedor Berndt, Jr. .......................................................... Treasurer

Vestry Members
Mr. David Folding ................................................................. 2017
Ms. Tina Buscemi ................................................................. 2018
Mr. Peter Christianson .......................................................... 2018
Mr. Gregory Roy ................................................................. 2019
Mrs. Lisa Wiley ................................................................. 2019

*Leadership board
Future Events at Christ Church

December 24th, Saturday
Family Christmas Eve Service
Music begins at 5:00pm (Child Care Available)
Service at 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Service
Music begins at 10:00pm (No Child Care)
Service at 10:30pm

December 25th, Sunday
Christmas Day Service
at 9:00am, in the Chapel (No Child Care)

Christ Church • 569 Main Street • Fitchburg, MA