

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

18h00 – 1st December 2024

A service of music and readings



Welcome to Holy Trinity Church's special service of music and readings to mark the beginning of the Advent season and in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ amongst us.

At the back of this order of service, please find details of our Advent and Christmas services. You are very welcome to join us for any of these.

We will be having a collection at the end of the service as you leave church and we would ask you to give generously to support the ministry of our church here in Geneva. We do not receive any subsidy for our running costs and we are entirely dependent on individual donations.

After the service, we invite everyone to share in the Advent refreshments in our hall downstairs, including stollen and mulled wine. There is no charge for the refreshments but a donation of CHF 10 would be appreciated to help defray costs.

At the start of the service, the choir will sing the Matin Responsory at the back of church.

The candles are lit.

Matin Responsory, G P da Palestrina – Sung by the choir

We stand

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

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light.

On those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Amen

May the Lord, whose face shines upon us, be with you always

And with thy spirit

We are longing and waiting for the Lord to be revealed

The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon

Let us lead lives, bathed in the light of the Lord

The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon

We know not when the master comes: evening, midnight, dawn

The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon

God of hosts, bring us back

Let thy face shine on us and we shall be saved

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| <p>1. O Come, O come, Emmanuel!
 Redeem thy captive Israel,
 That into exile drear is gone
 Far from the face of God's dear Son.
 <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel</i>
 <i>Shall come to thee, O Israel.</i></p> | <p>2. 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.</p> |
| <p>3. O come, O come, Adonai,
 Who in thy glorious majesty
 From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
 Gavest thy folk the ancient law.</p> | <p>4. 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.</p> |
| <p>5. 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.</p> | <p>6. 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.</p> |
| <p>7. O come, Desire of nations! show
 Thy kingly reign on earth below;
 Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
 Restore the ruin of our fall.</p> | |

Tune: Veni Emmanuel – from a French Missal, ad Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)
Words: Cologne 1710, based on Advent Antiphons, tr T A Lacey (1853-1931)

The BIDDING PRAYER

We REMAIN STANDING

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now and at all times.

Amen.

Adam Lay Ybounden, *Boris Ord* – Sung by the Choir

We SIT

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 clerkès finden
written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady
Abeen heavené queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo Gracias!

15th century Macaronic English text

Choir members extinguish candles. Congregational candles remain alight.

First Lesson

Genesis 1:1-5

And God said: Let there be light

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,² 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.³ Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

NEH 1

We stand

1. Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
Regard thy servants when they call.
2. Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die,
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.
3. Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide,
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.
4. At thy great name, exalted now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
And things in heaven and earth shall own
That thou art Lord and King alone.
5. To thee, O holy One, we pray,
Our judge in that tremendous day,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every onslaught of the foe.
6. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

*Tune: Plainsong Mode iv – Conditor Alme
Words: Latin, tr J M Neale (1818-1866)*

O radiant dawn, James MacMillan – Sung by the Choir

We SIT

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 the great light
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.
Amen.

A "Great O" Antiphon for Advent

Second LESSON

Isaiah 45:2-8

I form light and create darkness

² 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,³ 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.⁴ 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.⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me,⁶ 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.⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.⁸ 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.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

NEH 3

We stand

1. 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 for ever,
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.

Cross of Jesus
Tune: J Stainer (1840-1901)
Words: C Wesley (1707-1788)

Third LESSON

Malachi 3.1-5

We SIT

The Coming Messenger

³ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Thanks be to God.

Strengthen thee the weak hands, *Sir William Harris* – Sung by the Choir

The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth;
and he that is wise will not abhor them.

And he hath given men skill, that he might be honoured in his marvellous works.

My son, in thy sickness leave off from sin, and order thy hands arights,
and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness.

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Say to them that are of a fearful heart,

Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come; he will come and save you.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing:
for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them:
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.
It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing:
the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon,
they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.
O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us,
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Ecclesiasticus 38: 4, 6, 9, 10, 12; Isaiah 35: 1-6; Book of Common Prayer

HYMN

NEH 7

We stand

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| <p>1. Hills of the North, rejoice,
Echoing songs arise,
Hail with united voice
Him who made earth and skies:
He comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.</p> <p>3. Lands of the East, arise,
He 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.</p> | <p>2. Isles of the Southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.</p> <p>4. Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed over our darkest night.</p> <p>5. Shout, as you journey on,
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 sons of earth be blest.</p> |
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*Tune: Little Cornard – Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
Words: based on C E Oakley (1832-1865)*

Fourth LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

We sit

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

² 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.³ 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.

⁶ 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.⁷ 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.

Thanks be to God.

Hosanna to the son of David, *Orlando Gibbons* – Sung by the Choir

Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.
Blessed be the King of Israel.
Blessed is the King that cometh.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.

from Matthew 21:9

HYMN

NEH 12

We STAND

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed.
4. Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

Tune: Winchester New – from a chorale in Musicalisches Hand-Buch Hamburg 1690
Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

Fifth LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, 23-24

We sit

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

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³ 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! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief;⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.⁶ So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.⁸ 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.⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

²³ 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.²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn to the virgin, Benjamin Britten – Sung by the Choir

Of one that is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella,
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella:
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia,
That I may come to thee.
Maria!
All this world was forlorn
Eva peccatrice,
Till our Lord was yborn
De te genetrice.
With ave it went away
Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis;
The well springeth out of thee.
Virtutis.
Lady, flower of everything,
Rosa sine spina,
Thou bear Jesu, Heaven's King,
Gratia divina:
Of all thou bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa:
Maid mild, mother es
Effecta.

Words: Anon, c. 1300

HYMN

NEH 16

We stand

- 1. Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling
The watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying.
Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!
Alleluya!
The wedding song
Swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.**
- 2. Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
She stands and waits with eager eyes;
See her Friend from heaven descending,
Adorned with truth and grace unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son!
Hosanna!
Let us prepare
To follow there,
Where in thy supper we may share.**

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3. Every soul in thee rejoices;
From men and from angelic voices
Be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
Thy presence never more shall leave us,
We stand with Angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
The bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluya!
Grant us to raise,
To length of days,
The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Tune: Wachet Auf – Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), harm J S Bach (1685-1750)
Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

This is the truth sent from above, Ralph Vaughan Williams – Sung by the Choir

We sit

1 This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

2 The first thing which I do relate,
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

3 And we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.

4 But at that season of the year
Our blessed redeemer did appear;
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

5 Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleas'd to hear what he did say.

The GOSPEL

John 3:16-21

We stand

"I am the Light of the world".

¹⁶ '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.

¹⁷ '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.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.²¹ 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.'

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSARY

We REMAIN STANDING

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. We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God

In the midst of thy temple

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

And all flesh shall see it together

Show us thy mercy, O Lord

And grant us thy salvation

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us

As our trust is in thee

O Lord, hear our prayer

And let our cry come unto thee

Let us pray

Almighty God,

give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness

and put upon us the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which thy 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 quick and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

HYMN

NEH 9

During this hymn the congregational candles are extinguished.

- 1. 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.**
- 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
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
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:
O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Tune: Helmsley – T Olivers (1725-1799)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The BLESSING

May the God of Light, Peace and Love make you perfect and holy and keep you safe and blameless in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: and may Almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Music after the service – JS Bach Wachtet Auf (BWV 645)

Please share in the stollen, mulled wine and other refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Thank you for joining us for this service of Advent Carols. We wish you a blessed Advent season and hope to see you again for some Christmas services!

If you would like more information about joining the choir, please get in touch with the Director of Music, Mark Charles (mark.gwynfil.charles@gmail.com)

If you would like to speak to the Chaplain, Canon Daphne Green, at any point, she can be contacted at chaplain@holyltrinitygeneva.org

