



**Leicester Cathedral**  
*A beating heart for City and County*

# **Advent Carol Service**

**5.00pm**  
**Sunday 29 November 2020**  
**The First Sunday of Advent**

*Rosie Vinter, Assistant Director of Music, plays on the Organ*

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

*Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)*

*The Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Leicester, leads*

## **The Welcome and Introduction**

'Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.'

*Isaiah 49.13*

*Dean David continues with words of welcome and says*

We are apart, yet we are called to journey together,  
called to watch and hope in this Advent season.  
We begin where we are,  
in a world suspended in Winter, frozen in waiting,  
longing to be healed, to be connected.  
Let us listen again to words written from an ancient distance  
about God who is nearer to us now than we are to ourselves.  
Let us hear afresh the promise of God's comfort  
to those who are fearful and scattered apart.  
Let us dare to believe anew God's promise of joy  
found in a Son, the One who in Spirit is with us now.

In silence we sit, we wait, we pray.

*A short silence is kept.*

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 for ever.  
**Amen.**

*The Leicester Cathedral Chamber Choir sings*

Creator of the starry height,  
thy people's everlasting light,  
Jesu, redeemer of us all,  
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry  
of all creation doomed to die,  
didst come to save our fallen race  
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honour, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally. Amen.

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM (AM33i)  
*Mode iv*

*translated by John Mason Neale (1818–1866)  
based on Conditor alme siderum,  
Latin, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> century*

## **The First Reading**

### **Launde Abbey on St. Lucy's Day**

*Read by Peter Lewis*

St. Lucy's day is brief and bright with frost,  
In round cupped dew ponds shallow waters freeze,  
Delicate fronds and rushes are held fast,  
The low sun brings a contrast to the trees  
Whose naked branches, dark against the skies  
And fringed with glory by the light behind,  
In patterns too severe for tired eyes,  
Burn their bright beauty on the weary mind.  
Saint Lucy's sun still bathes these abbey walls  
And in her garden rose stalks stark and bare  
Shine in a frosty light that yet recalls  
The glory of the summer roses there.  
Though winter night will soon surround us here,  
Another Advent comes, Dayspring is near.

*Malcolm Guite (b.1957)*

## O Radiant Dawn

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:  
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.

Sir James MacMillan (b.1959)

O Oriens – Antiphon for 21 December;  
Isaiah 9.2

## The Second Reading

Isaiah 43, 1–3a, 5–9a

Read by Marian Kandi

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

### **Restoration and Protection Promised.**

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’,  
and to the south, ‘Do not withhold’;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,  
who are deaf, yet have ears!  
Let all the nations gather together,  
and let the peoples assemble.

*All sing*

## **The Hymn**

**Hills of the North, rejoice,  
river and mountain-spring,  
hark to the advent voice;  
valley and lowland, sing.  
Christ comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.**

**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.**

**Lands of the East, arise,  
he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn:  
your seers have longed to know their Lord;  
to you he comes, the final word.**

**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 o'er our darkest night.**

**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.**

LITTLE CORNARD (AM39)  
*Martin Shaw (1875–1958)*

*Editors of English Praise, 1975  
based on Charles Ernest Oakley (1832–1865)*

## **The Third Reading**

Isaiah 40.1–5, 10–11

*Read by Vic Allsop*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

### **God's People are Comforted.**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*The Leicester Cathedral Chamber Choir, with soloist Matthew Farrell, sings*

## This is the record of John

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou that Prophet? And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What say'st thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

*Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)*

*John 1.19–23*

## The Fourth Reading

Luke 1.67–79

*Read by Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

### ***Zechariah's Prophecy.***

Then John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up a mighty saviour for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all  
who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.

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.'

## The Sermon

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester



*The Leicester Cathedral Chamber Choir sings*

## Bogoróditse Dyévo

Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya,  
Blagodátnaya Mariye, Gospód s tobóyu.  
Blagoslovyéna ty v zhenákh,  
i blagoslovyén plod chryéva tvoyevó,  
yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshikh.

*Rejoice, virgin mother of God,  
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.*

*Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)  
from Vsenoshchnoe bdenie (All-Night Vigil), Op. 37*

*Translated by Barry Johnston (b.1943)*

*The Revd Canon Emma Davies, Acting Canon Precentor, leads*

## The Prayers

Together let us open our minds and hearts  
as we reach out in prayer to God.

Eternal God, bring your kingdom of justice, mercy and peace  
into all this world.

We hold before you the nations in conflict.

We give thanks for places of peace.

We pray for all who patiently work to steer us  
through this time of crisis.

Hear our prayer, O God. Come, Lord Jesus.

Loving God, bring the reality of your presence into our lives  
and the lives of those we love.

We hold before you all who are in need,  
especially those we carry on our hearts this day.

Bind up the broken-hearted O Lord, restore the sick,  
and give strength to all who nurse and tend them.

Hear our prayer, O God. Come, Lord Jesus.

Life-giving God, bring your dawning brightness to all who live  
in darkness and the shadow of death.

Surround the dying and those who mourn with your peace.

Hold our remembered loved ones in your nearer gaze and light.

Shine in us who journey on that we may bring your light to this dark world.

Hear our prayer, O God. Come, Lord Jesus.

I invite you to say with me, if you wish,  
and in your own language, the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

## The Fifth Reading

○ Emmanuel

*Read by The Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Leicester*

○ come, ○ come, and be our God-with-us  
○ long-sought With-ness for a world without,  
○ secret seed, ○ hidden spring of light.  
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name  
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,  
○ quickened little wick so tightly curled,  
Be folded with us into time and place,  
Unfold for us the mystery of grace  
And make a womb of all this wounded world.  
○ heart of heaven beating in the earth,  
○ tiny hope within our hopelessness  
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,  
To touch a dying world with new-made hands  
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

*Malcolm Guite (b.1957)*

## The Hymn

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! ...***

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! ...***

**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:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! ...***

**O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! ...***

VENI EMMANUEL (AM45)  
*Melody 'adapted from a French Missal'*  
by Thomas Helmore (1811–1890)  
last verse arranged by Andrew Carter (b.1939)

*John Mason Neale (1818–1866)  
translated from Latin Advent Antiphons*

## The Blessing and Dismissal

May the God of comfort and joy  
surround you, protect you,  
and enable you to know his divine embrace  
as we journey through this season together;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*David Cowen, Associate Organist, plays*

Fugue sur le thème du Carillon  
des Heures de la cathédrale de Soissons Op.12

*Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)*

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