



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

# **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

from the Community  
of Leicester Cathedral

**Comfort**  
and Joy



**Sunday 6 December 2020**  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**

*The Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Leicester, leads the service.*

*David Cowen, Associate Organist, plays on the Organ*

Pastorella BWV590.1

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

## **Welcome and Greeting**

We meet in the presence of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people.

*Isaiah 52.9*

*Dean David continues with words of welcome.*

The Second Sunday of Advent is traditionally when we focus on the prophets, not only through their great Messianic prophecies, but also contemplating how they speak to us today, still living as we do alongside injustice and inequality. Lighting our Advent candles also invites us to reflect upon themes of hope, peace, love and joy amid the fragility of today's world and the imperfections of its peoples.

## **Penitence Asking for God's forgiveness and healing**

Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'

**Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*Silence is kept.*

Heavenly Father,  
you call us to repent of our sins:  
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you declared the forgiveness of God:  
teach us to forgive one another.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you search our hearts and show us the truth:  
direct us in your way of righteousness.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Absolution** God's forgiveness for us

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

### **Collect** for the Second Sunday of Advent

Let us pray.

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

People of God: be glad!  
Your God delights in you,  
giving you joy for sadness  
and turning the dark to light.  
Be strong in hope therefore;  
for your God comes to save.  
You are God's children.  
**Lord, make us one in the love of Christ  
today and for ever.  
Amen.**

*All sing*

### The Advent Hymn | Advent II

**Prophet voices loudly crying,  
making pathways clear;  
glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
calling all to hear.  
Through their message - challenged, shaken -  
hearts awaken: God is near!**

ANGEL VOICES (AM26)  
Edwin George Monk (1819–1900)

Mark Earey (b.1965)

## The First Reading

Isaiah 40.1–11

*Read by Themba Mabodoko*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Second Reading

Mark 1.1–8

*Read by Bev Collett*

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

The Revd Canon Paul Rattigan, Canon Chancellor and DDO

*David Cowen plays*

Consolation in D flat

*Franz Liszt (1811–1886)*

## Prayers of Intercession

*The following response is used*

Maranatha  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

*and this response may be used at the end:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*The prayers conclude with The Lord's Prayer*

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.**

*Thank you for joining us today for the Second Sunday in Advent. **This is the usual time in a service that a collection would be taken** and collections are a vital source of income for us so please give generously – you can give by text or online – <http://easydonate.org/PLATE> (please see the final page for details). Your gifts enable us to continue to do this work and to keep the building open and safe for all that visit.  
**Thank you.***

## **The Hymn**

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

**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, with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**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, O come quickly,  
alleluia! come, Lord, come.**

HELMSLEY (AM41)  
*Melody adapted from John Wesley's  
Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed, 1765*

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)  
and John Cennick (1718–1755)*



## The Blessing and Dismissal

The Church of England's theme for this season is 'Comfort and Joy' – words taken from the refrain of a well-known Christmas carol. May you, this coming week and throughout the season of Advent experience God's comfort and experience the joy of Christ's presence.

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.  
and may the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

There are various Advent activities you may wish to join in, not least today an Advent meditation with David Cowen, our Assistant Organist at 3.00pm online and our ongoing Advent reflections on Wednesday evenings, details of which are on our website and Facebook pages.

As we await our coming Saviour,  
And until we meet again,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

*David Cowen plays*

Pastorella BWV590.11

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

## **Leicester Cathedral needs your help**

We understand that not everyone will be able to help in this uncertain climate. But if you are able to continue your giving, or to make a donation now, it will be enormously helpful.

We have limited reserves, our earned income has come to a standstill, and giving by collection plate and envelope has ceased. As a result, we are experiencing very real financial pressures.

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