



Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County

SUNDAY WORSHIP

from the Community
of Leicester Cathedral

Comfort
and Joy



Sunday 13 December 2020
The Third Sunday of Advent

The Revd Canon Karen Rooms, Canon Missioner, leads the service.

David Cowen, Associate Organist, plays on the Organ

Cantilena

Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)

Welcome and Greeting

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

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

1 Corinthians 4.5

Canon Karen continues with words of welcome.

The Third Sunday of Advent has as its focus John the Baptist, highlighting his connection with the great prophetic tradition and enabling us to hear his voice heralding the coming of the Christ. Today too we hear the prophetic words of Isaiah which Christ appropriated to himself, words of good news to those who suffer, and words which invite us to reflect on our calling towards those who also suffer and are marginalised and invisible in our global society today. Our Advent candles continue to present a message of hope, peace, love and joy: today we are challenged how to interpret and live out that message.

Penitence Asking for God's forgiveness and healing

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

cf John 1.23

Silence is kept

Heavenly Father,
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:
help us also to prepare your way.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you speak through the prophets:
make us attentive to hear your word.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution God's forgiveness for us

May the God of love
bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins,
and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

Let us pray.

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

People of God: return!
You are called to be God's own.
From the mountains announce the good news.
God comes in justice and peace,
to all who follow his ways.
You are God's children.
**Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ
today and forever.
Amen.**

All sing

The Advent Hymn | Advent III

**John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'**

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

Mark Earey (b.1965)

The First Reading

Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11

Read by Chi Okafor

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

John 1.6–8, 19–28

Read by James Cowen

A reading from the Gospel of John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said,

‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Make straight the way of the Lord”’,
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Revd Canon Alison Adams, Canon Pastor and Sub-Dean

David Cowen plays

Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748)

“Christ is the only Son of God... He is the morning star”

Prayers of Intercession

The following response is used

In faith we pray.

We pray to you, our God.

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 Third 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

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and spirit blessed for evermore.**

WINCHESTER NEW (AM46)
*Adapted from a chorale in
Musicalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg, 1690*

Jordanis oras praevia
Charles Coffin (1676–1749)
translated by John Chandler (1806–1876)

The Blessing and Dismissal

We continue with the theme of 'Comfort and Joy' – words taken from the refrain of a well-known Christmas carol. May you, this coming week and as we approach Christmas, experience God's comfort and experience the joy of Christ's presence.

May God himself, the God of peace,
Make you perfect and holy,
And keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
For the coming of our Lord Jesus: *cf 1 Thessalonians 5.23*
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

There is another Advent meditation today at 3.00pm online and next week we shall hold our Carol Service in the Cathedral at 2.30, 5.00 and 7.30pm. Details of how to book for this may be found on our website and Facebook pages. It will also be broadcast online.

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.

Rosie Vinter, Assistant Director of Music, plays

Wachet Auf

Benson

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.

Donate *online* at <http://easydonate.org/PLATE>

Donate by *Text*

To donate £5, text PLATE to 70970

To donate £10, text PLATE to 70191

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Music reproduced under licence CCL180857

Invitation to Confession (1st Sun. of Advent to Christmas Eve) © 1988 Continuum (Mowbray) (Adapted)

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2002

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Post Communion (3rd of Advent) © Westcott House, Cambridge