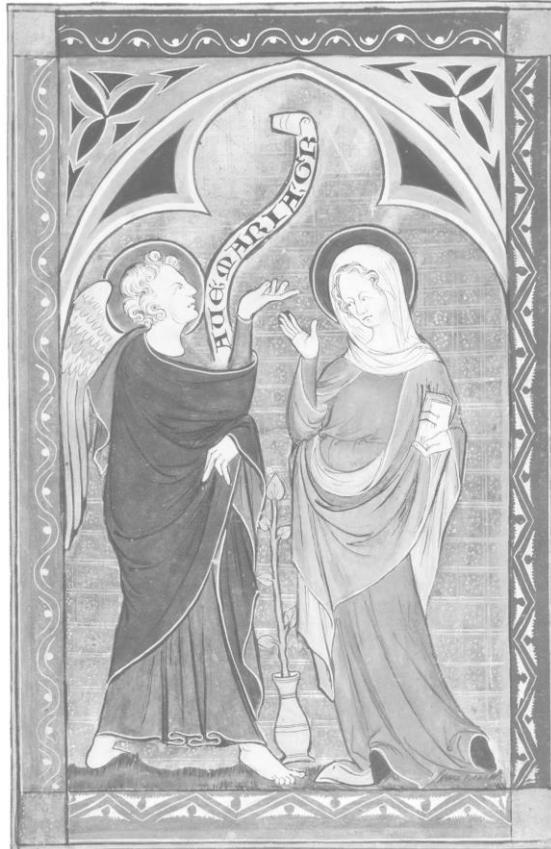


A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm



Church of the Holy Martyr Saint Stephen-in-the-Fields
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Matins Responsory *adapted from a setting by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina*

Sung by the choir

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.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

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

Processional Hymn: *Come, thou Redeemer of the earth*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

The choir sings the first verse of the hymn; all join in the singing of the second verse.

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

All: 2 Forth from his chamber goeth he, that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one, rejoicing now his course to run.

3 From God the Father he proceeds, to God the Father back he speeds;
his course he runs to death and hell, returning on God's throne to dwell.

4 O equal to the Father, thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.

5 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene.

6 All laud, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

Bidding prayer *Please remain standing, as able.*

Officiant: Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from holy scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Reader: The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.

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.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *Creator of the stars of night*

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

- 1 Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light,
Jesus, redeemer of us all, hear thou thy servants when they call.
- 2 Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry of all creation doomed to die,
didst save our lost and guilty race by healing gifts of heavenly grace.
- 3 When earth was near its evening hour, thou didst in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come forth from a maiden mother's womb.
- 4 At thy great name, exalted now, all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heaven and earth adore, and own thee King for evermore.
- 5 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.

Second Reading: Jeremiah 31.31-34

Reader: The Lord proclaims a new covenant to his people.

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. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord”, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Carol: *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

Traditional, arr. Martin Shaw

Sung by the choir.

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance;

*Sing, O! my love, O! my love, my love, my love,
this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to man's nature to call my true love to my dance.

*Sing, O! my love, O! my love, my love, my love,
this have I done for my true love.*

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was, so very poor, this was my chance,
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass to call my true love to my dance.

*Sing, O! my love, O! my love, my love, my love,
this have I done for my true love.*

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance.

*Sing, O! my love, O! my love, my love, my love,
this have I done for my true love.*

At length to heaven I did ascend, where now I dwell in sure substance
on the right hand of God, that all may come unto the general dance.

*Sing, O! my love, O! my love, my love, my love,
this have I done for my true love.*

Third Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10

Reader: The Prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *When the king shall come again*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

- 1 When the king shall come again, all his power revealing,
 splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing;
 earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated,
 this is God's redemption day, longingly awaited.
- 2 In the desert, trees take root, fresh from God's creation;
 plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration;
 rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.
 Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains, greet the morning!
- 3 Strengthen feeble hands and knees; fainting hearts, be cheerful!
 God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.
 Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;
 blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping!
- 4 There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,
 nothing evil or unclean, walks the road to Zion:
 ransomed people homeward bound, all your praises voicing,
 see your Lord with glory crowned, share in his rejoicing.

Fourth Reading: Baruch 4.36 – 5.7

Reader: The Prophet foretells the return of God's people.

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
 and see the joy that is coming to you from God.
Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;
 they are coming, gathered
from east and west, at the word of the Holy One,
 rejoicing in the glory of God.
Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
 and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
 put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.
For God will give you evermore the name,
 "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory".

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
For God has ordered that every high mountain
and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up,
to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Carol: *People, look east!*

BESANÇON

Sung by the choir.

- 1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.
- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.
- 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.
- 5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Fifth Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-18

Reader: The Prophet announces God's victory to Zion.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *On Jordan's bank*

WINCHESTER NEW

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within,
prepare we in our hearts a home where such a mighty Guest may come.
- 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.
- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Sixth Reading: Luke 1.5-25

Reader: The birth of John the Baptist is foretold.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Carol: *Angelus ad virginem (in Latin; sung by the choir)*

- 1 The angel, coming secretly to the Virgin’s room,
 calming the Virgin’s fears, said “Hail, hail, Queen of Virgins!
 The Lord of heaven and earth you shall conceive
 and give birth, intact, to the Salvation of mankind;
 you, who are made the gate of Heaven, the cure for sins.”
- 2 “‘How shall I conceive, seeing that I know not a man?
 How shall I commit an infraction, I who made a vow with my firm mind?’”
 “‘The grace of the Holy Ghost will do all this; do not be afraid, but rejoice,
 sure that chastity will remain pure in you, by the power of God.’”
- 3 To these words the noble virgin answering, said to him,
 “I am the humble handmaiden of the all-powerful God.
 To you, celestial messenger, conscious of such mysteries,
 consenting, and desiring to see done what I hear,
 I am ready to obey God's will.”
- 4 O mother of the Lord who has restored peace
 to angels and to man when you bore Christ;
 pray your Son that favourable to us he may show himself,
 and wash away our sins, giving help to enjoy a blessed life after this exile.

Please stand, as able, for the seventh lesson.

Seventh Reading: Luke 1.26-35, 38

Reader: The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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, favoured 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 favour 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." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

- 1 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.
- 2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 3 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! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 4 O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 5 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes from Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Collect

Priest: Let us pray.
O God, you who make us glad
with the yearly expectation of your coming;
grant that we,
who with joy receive your only-begotten Son as our Redeemer,
may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our judge,
even your Son our Lord Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

All: **Amen.**

Vespers Responsory *adapted from a setting by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina*
Sung by the choir

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Priest: We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

All: **In the midst of thy tem-ple.**

Blessing

Priest: Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour all God's people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Officiant: The Rev'd Maggie Helwig
Music Director: John Gardham