

The Advent Carol Service



Truro
Cathedral

28th November 2021
at 6.00 pm

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Welcome to the Advent Carol Service when we traditionally look forward to the birth of the Saviour.

Advent is a time of watching and waiting, of preparation and excitement; it is full of deep symbolism. Included within this service today are three important features: light amidst darkness, prophecy and expectation, and procession/movement.

Light amidst darkness.

The service is held in candlelight. Although most people assume that candlelit services produce a certain atmosphere, nevertheless the use of candles liturgically has ancient Christian origins. In St John's Gospel Jesus refers to himself as 'the Light of the world' (8: 12) and this theme is developed further as the divine light of Christ banishes the darkness of worldly sin. It has also become a widespread tradition for vigils to be observed with the use of candles, the light symbolising hope for the future amidst the darkness of despair and tragedy.

Prophecy and expectation.

During the service Bible readings will show us how, since the Fall and the inescapable fact of sin which affects us all, that God reconciles and forgives, even promising to send his Son as the Promised Redeemer. Old Testament Readings lead into the New, and prophecies receive their fulfilment in the announcement of the Kingdom by John the Baptist and the news given to Mary that she would bear the Son of God.

Procession/movement

The service takes place in procession from west (the back of the cathedral) to east (the front) as the reconciling invitation of God and the birth of the Saviour demand a response from us. The procession symbolises God's invitation towards us and our movement towards him. In the words of the ancient 'Matin Responsory' traditionally sung at this service 'Go ye out to meet him'. If we have met with Christ, we can never be the same again.

**Please make sure that all mobile phones
are turned off or set to silent mode.**

Please stand when the choir has assembled at the west end of the cathedral.

Matin Responsory by 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. Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. 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 Spirit.

The procession moves to the front of the nave during the following Hymn

Hymn

Choir Come, thou redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall,
Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
The Saviour, now to man displayed.

The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honour all unstained,
The banners there of virtue glow,
God in his temple dwells below.

All **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.**

**O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.**

**All laud eternal Son to thee
Whose Advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

Please remain standing

Bidding Prayer

led by the Canon Chancellor

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 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 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 has taught us:

All **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.**

Please sit

People look east
sung by the choir

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.

Furrows be glad tho' 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.

Birds, tho' long you've ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
E'en the hour when wings are frozen
He for fledgeling time had chosen.
People look East, and sing today:
Love, the Bird is on the way.

Stars, keep watch when night is dim,
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as the sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

Angels announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
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.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon

Music by Peter Tranchell (1922 – 1993)

First Reading

Genesis 3: 1 – 15

read by the Canon Precentor

Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Thanks be to God.

Adam lay ybounden
sung by the choir

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 clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our Lady
A-been heavene Queen.

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

Words: Anon 15th cent

Music by Peter Warlock (1894 – 1930)

Second Reading
Isaiah 6: 1 – 8
read by Canon Helen Davies

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then flew one of the seraphim to

me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Thanks be to God.

In the midst of life
sung by the choir

In the midst of life we are in death:
of whom may we seek for succour,
but of thee, O Lord,
who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet O Lord, O Lord most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
deliver us not into the bitter pains
of eternal death.

Words: Book of Common Prayer

Music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Please stand

During the following hymn the Procession moves into the Quire

Hymn

**Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
Stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?**

**Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
Shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
Surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
Glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!**

**This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
Cast at his feet the burden of our care.**

**Yea through life, death,
through sorrow and through sinning,
He shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.**

Please sit

Third Reading

Isaiah 52: 7 – 10

read by Canon Sue Wallace

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Thanks be to God.

Rejoice in the Lord always

sung by the choir

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men:
the Lord is even at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding
keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Words: Philippians 4: 4-7

Music: Anon

Fourth Reading

Haggai 2: 6 – 9

read by Canon Elly Sheard

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts."

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Hymn

**Hills of the North rejoice;
River and mountain spring,
Hark to the Advent voice;
Valley and lowland sing:
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
He judgement brings and victory.**

**Isles of the southern seas,
Deep in your coral caves
Pent be each warring breeze,
Lulled be your restless waves:
He comes to reign with boundless sway,
And makes your wastes his great highway.**

**Lands of the east, awake
Soon shall your sons be free;
The sleep of ages break,
And rise to liberty.
On your far hills, long cold and grey,
Has dawned the everlasting day.**

**Shores of the utmost west,
Ye that have waited long,
Unvisited, Unblest,
Break forth to swelling song;
High raise the note, that Jesus died,
Yet lives and reigns the Crucified.**

**Shout while ye journey home;
Songs be in every mouth;
Lo, from the north we come,
From east and west and south.
City of God, the bond are free,
We come to live and reign in thee!**

Please sit

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 35: 1 – 6

read by Canon Alan Bashforth

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, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb 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. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not pass over it, and fools shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come upon 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.

Thanks be to God.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord
sung by the choir

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be exalted
and every mountain and hill be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight
and the rough places shall be made plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.
And the voice said cry, (What shall I cry?)
all flesh is grass, and the goodness thereof
is as a flower that is in the field.
The grass withereth, the flower fadeth,
but the word of the Lord shall stand fast for ever.
O Zion, that bringeth glad tidings,
get thee up into the mountains.
O Jerusalem, that bringeth glad tidings
lift up thy voice with strength
and say unto Judah, 'behold thy God'.

Words: Isaiah 40: 3-9

Music by Michael Wise (1648 - 1687)

Please stand

Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou Branch of Jesse draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.**

**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.**

**O come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heav'nward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.**

**O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with awe
Gavest thy folk the elder law.**

Please sit

Sixth Reading

Luke 1: 26 – 38

read by Canon Helen Davies

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And 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 called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Thanks be to God.

There is no rose
sung by the choir

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space :
Res miranda. (*Wondrous thing*).

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three.
Pari forma. (*One in form*).

The angels sungen the shepherds too :
Gloria in excelsis Deo. (*Glory to God in the highest*).
Gaudeamus. (*Let us rejoice*).

Words: Anonymous 15th cent.

Music by Russell Pascoe (b. 1959)

Seventh Reading

Mark 1: 1 – 15

read by Canon Elly Sheard

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight". John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Thanks be to God.

This is the record of John
sung by the choir

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 the 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 sayest thou of thyself?' And he said, 'I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'

Words : John 1: 19-23

Music by Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

Please stand

During the following Hymn the Procession moves to the Sanctuary.

Hymn

**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.**

**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 Holy Ghost, for evermore.**

Please remain standing for

The Collect

We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.
All **In the midst of thy temple.**

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming, grant that we, who with joy receive thy only begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

The Vesper Responsory is then sung by the choir to a setting by Palestrina

Can Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed.

Choir Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

Choir 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.

Choir Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

The Blessing
The Canon Precentor

The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal.
All **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and Judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light.
All **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you to bear the fruits of holiness.
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Hymn during which the procession departs.

Hymn

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

**Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.**

**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!**

**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!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in E minor BWV 548 by J. S. Bach (1685 -1750)

There will be a retiring collection at the end of the service. Please give generously. If you are a taxpayer, please consider making your contribution by Gift Aid which allows us to reclaim tax you have already paid.

Services and Events over Christmas at Truro Cathedral

The Christmas Concert by the Cathedral Choir – Saturday 18th December at 7.30 pm. Tickets from £10 are available from www.minack.com a link to which can be found on the cathedral's webpage.

Nine Lessons and Carols

Thursday 23rd December at 7 pm

Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve, 24th December at 7 pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve, 24th December at 11.00 pm

Christmas Day

Solemn Eucharist, 10 am

Carol Service for Pets

Thursday 30th December, 2 pm

Prayers of preparation for Christmas

Loving Father,
we thank you for the gift of your Son,
whose birth at Bethlehem we now prepare to celebrate.
May our hearts and our homes
always be open to him,
that he may dwell with us for ever,
and we may serve him gladly all our days,
to the honour and glory of your name. Amen.

Lord, help us amid all the busyness of this season
to find time to think of what Christmas really means:
of your love for the world,
of the coming of the promised Redeemer,
of the mystery of the Word made flesh;
as we remember Mary and Joseph
who set out on the road to Bethlehem,
lead us in our life's journey,
fill our hearts with love for you
and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COULD YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER BE A CHORISTER?

The Cathedral's Director of Music is always pleased to hear from parents of prospective boy or girl Choristers.

Our boy Choristers are aged 8 to 13 (school years 4 to 8) and the girl Choristers are aged 13 to 18 (school years 9 to 13).

Girls normally audition when in Year 8, for entry into the choir as they begin Year 9.

Enquiries are welcome as soon as possible ahead of auditions in the New Year. Full information can be found on the Cathedral's website, www.trurocathedral.org.uk

Contact details for the Director of Music are:
01872 276782
christophergray@trurocathedral.org.uk

Thank you for joining us for this special service today. We would love you to stay in touch. Truro Cathedral is first and foremost a church, a living community working and worshipping in surroundings of great importance, privilege and beauty. It is a holy place accessible to all. The primary purpose continues to be, as it always has been and will be, the Opus Dei: the daily round of prayer and worship of Almighty God from which all other activities draw their inspiration. Each day of the year services are held, whether large diocesan or civic events in the nave or smaller intimate occasions in one of the chapels. The cathedral is also pleased to host a number of events, exhibitions and concerts which take place throughout the year.

There are many ways you can support the life and work of Truro Cathedral. From worshipping and volunteering, to attending events, visiting or making a donation. You can discover more about all of these elements on our website, or you can like and follow us on our cathedral Facebook or Twitter to stay up to date with all that is taking place here at Truro Cathedral.

 Truro Cathedral

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**Truro
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