

# **The Advent Procession:**

## **A journey from Darkness to Light**

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**Truro  
Cathedral**

Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> December  
6.00 pm

This Advent Procession begins our annual celebration of the good news of the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. Historically, the Advent service is a movement from darkness to light, mirroring the journey of the human race from the darkness of sorrow and death into the light of Christ's dawning Kingdom of justice and joy. The service will begin in darkness as the Choir sings the Advent Prose. As the great Advent Antiphons and words of scripture proclaim the coming of a new King of Love, the light gradually dawns as more and more candles are lit, until the Cathedral is ablaze with the light and hope of Christ's promised return. The main direction of movement in an Advent procession has traditionally been from the West towards the East because looking to the East is symbolic of keeping watch for the coming Kingdom of God.

This central theme of the Advent service is reinforced by the words of the Advent Antiphons which were traditionally sung in the days leading up to Christmas. Each antiphon calls Christ to return by one of his prophetic titles 'O wisdom, O root of Jesse, O Key of David - come!' They build up into a poignant cry for help on behalf of all the suffering people in the world. The first letters of each antiphon's title for Christ in Latin, when reversed, form the Latin phrase: ERO CRAS. 'Tomorrow I will be there.' It is as if Christ is responding to his people's desperate cries and reminding us that he is truly coming. 'Even so, come Lord Jesus.'

Please join in the congregational responses marked in **bold type**.

*There will be a retiring collection at the end of this service. The Anglican Choral Tradition is a vital part of Truro Cathedral's heritage. If you believe that choir and organ music is precious, and want to help pass it on to future generations, we invite you to get involved. Visit the music pages at [www.trurocathedral.org.uk/music](http://www.trurocathedral.org.uk/music)*

## Welcome

*The Dean welcomes the congregation and the lights are extinguished.  
Please remain seated and do not move around whilst we are in darkness.  
Chorale prelude "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" BWV 659 Bach*

## Introduction

*A minister speaks:*

The people live in darkness, within the shadow of death;  
the lamp of faith is growing dim and the spark of hope is stifled;  
the pilgrims seek for meaning and an end to all the mourning;  
whilst the green-globe that sustains us is parched and overheating.  
Death is ever-present, heartbreak, sorrow and disease;  
A litany of suffering. Where can we turn for help?

*The choir sings from the West End*

## The Advent Prose

Drop down ye heavens from above,  
And let the skies pour down righteousness.  
Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people;  
My salvation shall not tarry.  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions.  
Fear not, for I will save thee;  
For I am the Lord thy God,  
The holy one of Israel, thy redeemer.  
Drop down ye heavens from above,  
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

*The minister continues:*

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; and dawn is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.

The light and peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The clergy candles are lit*

## **The First Antiphon: O Sapientia (wisdom)**

*Sung by the choir*

O Wisdom, which hast come out of the mouth of the Most High,  
And mightily orderest all things:  
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*A minister speaks*

You guide us with your wisdom,  
and yet we tread the paths of foolishness:  
Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

Our people walk in darkness, living in the shadow of death:  
Christ have mercy.  
**Christ have mercy.**

Your words are a lantern to our feet and a light to our path:  
Lord have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy.**

*The Bishop*

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of  
all your sins, time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **The Second Antiphon: O Adonai (Lord)**

*Sung by the choir*

O Adonai, deliverer of the house of Israel, who in Sinai didst give the law  
to Moses: Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

## **The First Lesson: Acts 7.30-34**

*God meets Moses at the burning bush*

*Read by a Former-Chorister*

'Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush. When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight; and as he approached to look, there came the voice of the Lord: "I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses began to tremble and did not dare to look. Then the Lord said to him, "Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have surely seen the mistreatment of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. Come now, I will send you to Egypt." Thanks be to God.

*A minister speaks:*

Adonai, the Great I AM. The God who was, who is, and is to come. The ever-present Lord of Love. God had heard our groaning and has promised rescue

## **Choir Carol: This is the Truth**

*The candles in the first half of the nave are lit*

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love;  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing, which I do relate,  
Is that God did man create  
The next thing, which to you I tell,  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

And we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose  
For so a promise soon did run  
That He'd redeem us by his Son.

And at this season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear  
He here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands He did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved  
To show us how we must be saved  
And if you want to know the way  
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Words: English Traditional

### **The Third Antiphon: O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)**

*Sung by the choir*

O Root of Jesse, standing as a banner for the people, whom the nations shall seek: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

### **The Second Lesson: Isaiah 11.1-4a, 10**

*A rescuer will come from the root of Jesse, the royal house of David:*

*Read by a representative of the cathedral flower arrangers*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear: but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; on that day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. Thanks be to God.

*A minister speaks:*

The tree of Jesse was cut down. The kings of Israel were gone, and the people were in exile. There was no hope or future for the nation. The leaders had been cruel and selfish and the nation had paid the price. But

then Isaiah spoke and declared that even a dead tree stump can live. A shoot will spring up. A new leader will come who will speak words of wisdom and love.

### **Choir Carol: A Tender Shoot**

*The candles in the rest of the nave are lit*

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,  
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:  
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,  
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;  
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;  
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,  
Thus turning darkness into light.

Music: Otto Goldschmidt

Text: William Bartholomew

### **Congregational Hymn:**

*Please stand*

**On our world of doubts and darkness  
Greed and vio-lence, war and pain.  
Prophets cry out in their sorrow  
"Come towards the light again.  
Cease your greed and share your bread  
Pave the highway of our God".**

**Root of Jesse, souls are restless,  
Graft our lives upon your law.  
Day-Star, light salvation's pathway  
In our hearts the ice can thaw.  
He will melt our hearts of stone;  
shape our minds to match his own.**

**Key of David, sin has bound us  
our addictions weigh us down  
with the chains of guilty mem-ories  
shedding tears, enough to drown.  
Come O King, break down the bars  
and release us, true Messiah.**

**Come redeemer of our cosmos,  
come redeemer of our world.  
Lord of Love, restore the broken  
Come, O wisdom, God's true Word.  
In the East your light will dawn.  
God-With-Us will soon be born.**

*Music: IRBY NEH 34 H.J. Gauntlett (1805-76)*

*Text: SMW 2024 (written for this service)*

## **Choir Carol: Adam Lay Ybounden**

*Please sit*

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.

Nay had the apple taken been  
The apple taken been;  
Nay had never our lady  
A-been heavene queen.

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

*Music: Peter Warlock (1894-1930)*

*Words: Anon 15th cent*



## **The Fourth Antiphon: O Clavis David (Key of David)**

*Sung by the choir*

O Key of David, that openest and no man shutteth,  
and shuttest and no man openeth:  
Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison house.

## **The Third Lesson: Revelation 3.7-8, 10-13**

*God's rule will bring restoration*

*Read by a verger/caretaker*

'And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens: 'I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 'Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.' Thanks be to God.

*A minister speaks:*

Together, let us pray:

**O Holy One and True, who can open every lock  
and break every chain our world devises;  
set us free! Set us free from our addictions,  
our selfishness and violence, our anxiety and grief.  
Take our hands and lead us, from our darkness into light;  
from our sadness into joy; from the prison of our pain  
into a joy that lasts forever;  
in your name, O Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## **The Fifth Antiphon: O Oriens (Day-Star)**

*Sung by the choir*

O Day-spring, Brightness of Light Everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness:  
Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of  
death.

## **The Fourth Lesson: 2 Peter 1.16-21**

*The coming of Christ the light is foretold*

*Read by a candle-bearer*

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. Thanks be to God.

## **Choir Carol: O thou the central Orb**

O thou, the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the Most High, eternal light  
Of this our wintry world; thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith: hope soars above.  
Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine;  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,  
As stars about thy throne, set in the height  
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight  
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin:  
Our nature all shall feel eternal day  
In fellowship with thee, transforming ray  
To souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within.

*Music: Orlando Gibbons From O all true faithful hearts (1583-1625)*

*Words: H. R. Bramley (1833-1917)*

*A Minister speaks:*

and so we pray for that light of God's kingdom to come,  
in the words our Saviour gave 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.**

**Congregational Hymn:**

*Please stand*

**Hills of the North, rejoice,  
Echoing songs arise,  
Hail with united voice  
Him who made earth and skies:  
He 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:  
The God whom you have longed to know  
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**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 on,  
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 sons of earth be blest.**

Music: Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Words: based on C. E. Oakley (1832-65)

### **The Sixth Antiphon: O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations)**

*Please sit*

O King of the Nations, and their Desire; the Corner- stone, who makest reconciliation: Come and save mankind, whom thou hast formed of clay.

**The Fifth Lesson: St Luke 1. 26-38**  
*The Annunciation to Blessed Virgin Mary*  
*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The candles in the quire are lit*

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Choir Carol: The Annunciation

*Please sit*

The angel and the girl are met.  
Earth was the only meeting place.  
For the embodied never yet  
Travelled beyond the shore of space.  
The eternal spirits in freedom go.

See, they have come together, see,  
While the destroying minutes flow,  
Each reflects the other's face  
Till heaven in hers and earth in his  
Shine steady there. He's come to her  
From far beyond the farthest star,  
Feathered through time. Immediacy  
Of strangest strangeness is the bliss  
That from their limbs all movement takes.  
Yet the increasing rapture brings  
So great a wonder that it makes  
Each feather tremble on his wings.

Outside the window footsteps fall  
Into the ordinary day  
And with the sun along the wall  
Pursue their unreturning way.  
Sound's perpetual roundabout  
Rolls its numbered octaves out  
And hoarsely grinds its battered tune.

But through the endless afternoon  
These neither speak nor movement make,  
But stare into their deepening trance  
As if their gaze would never break.

## **The Seventh Antiphon: O Emmanuel (God with us)**

*Sung by the choir*

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of the nations:  
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

## **The Sixth Lesson: Revelation 22.1-5, 7, 16-17, 20**

*Christ will come once again in glory*

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night: they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

'See, I am coming soon!

Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.'

'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says,

'Surely I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

## **Congregational Hymn**

*During which candles are lit upon the High Altar.*

*Please stand*

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

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

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

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

*Music: 15th-century French*

*Words: 18th century*



## **The Advent Responsory**

*Read by the Dean from the High Altar*

*Please sit or kneel*

Now is the time for us to wake out of sleep,  
for deliverance is nearer to us  
than when first we believed.

The night is far spent; the day is at hand.

We wait for thy loving-kindness, O Lord;

**in the midst of thy temple.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

**and all flesh shall see it together.**

Show us thy mercy, O Lord,

**and grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord Jesus Christ,

**come at evening time, with light,**

And in the morning, with thy glory,

**to guide our feet into the ways of peace.**

## **Choir Carol: People Look East**

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)*

## **Final responses and Advent Collect**

*All stand as the Dean leads the final responses*

He who receives our prayers says: Surely I come quickly.

I am the root and offspring of David.

I am the bright and morning star.

**Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

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.**

## Congregational Hymn

*Please remain standing*

**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;  
We who set at nought and sold him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the tree.  
Deeply wailing,  
Shall our 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!**

*Music: 18th-century*

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

*The congregation extinguish their candles  
in preparation for the blessing.*

## The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you  
this night and for evermore. **Amen.**

## Matin Responsory by Palestrina

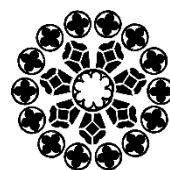
I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph 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 leaves the cathedral.*

## Organ Voluntaries

Choral prelude "Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland" BWV 661: J.S. Bach  
Tocatta on Veni Emmanuel: Andrew Carter

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**Truro  
Cathedral**