



BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

**A Service of
words and music
for Advent**

Sunday 30th November 2014
at 6.30 p.m.

ADVENT

The season of Advent is traditionally a time of preparation for Christmas, and its observance dates from the sixth century in Gaul. Originally it stretched from St Martin's Day (11th November) to Christmas Eve, and was known as 'The Lent of St Martin.' This title suggests the parallel between Advent and the Lenten fast. Meditations on the themes of judgement and our ultimate destiny were developed for each of the four Sundays of Advent.

The ancient people of God, the Jews, looked forward to the coming of God's Kingdom, when there would be a new order of justice and righteousness. The early Church saw that the Kingdom had been anticipated and experienced through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, but still prayed 'Thy Kingdom come,' looking forward to a second coming and the final consummation of all things.

The pattern of this Advent service (in its four sections) reflects the season's growing anticipation, both of the first coming of Christ and of that day when the prayer 'Thy Kingdom come' is finally and fully answered.

The congregation is requested to be as quiet as possible during the organ music.

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo' BWV 729

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)*

Prelude on 'The holly and the ivy'

*Herbert Sumsion
(1899–1995)*

Chorale Prelude on 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' BWV 645

*Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)*

Interlude on 'The Coventry Carol'

*William Lloyd Webber
(1914-1982)*

INTROIT

Please remain seated

RORATE CAELI

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

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.

Words from the book of Isaiah

Aurelius Prudentius Clemens (348–c. 405)

Music Plainsong Setting

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand

All:

- 1 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.*

- 2 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.

Upper voices only:

- 3 O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on thy souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

Lower voices only:

- 4 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.

All:

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

*Words Cologne 1710, based on the
ancient Advent Antiphons*

*Tr. T. A. Lacey (1853–1931)
and others*

Tune VENI EMMANUEL

*Melody 'adapted from a French Missal'
by Thomas Helmore (1811–1890)*

*Arranged David Willcocks
(b. 1919)*

Please remain standing

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, as we light this candle of hope, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ's nativity as also for the Day when he shall come to judge the hearts of us all. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the vision of God's perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

In word and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that God's kingdom will come; and, with John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church.

Let us then pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**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.**

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

Please sit

CAROL

THE CHERRY TREE CAROL

1. Joseph was an old man,
And an old man was he,
When he married Mary
In the land of Galilee.

2. And as they were walking
Through an orchard so good,
Where were cherries and berries
As red as any blood.

3. O then bespoke Mary,
With words both meek and mild,
'Pluck me one cherry, Joseph;
For that I am with child'.

4. Go to the tree then, Mary,
And it shall bow to thee;
And you shall gather cherries
By one, by two, by three.

5. Then bowed down the highest tree
Unto our Lady's hand;
'See,' Mary cried, 'see Joseph,
I have cherries at command'.

6. O eat your cherries, Mary,
O eat your cherries now;
O eat your cherries, Mary,
That grow upon the bough.

7. Then Mary plucked a cherry,
As red as any blood,
Then Mary went she homewards
All with her heavy load.

Words *English traditional*

Music *English traditional carol*
arr. David Willcocks
(b. 1919)

I THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT

SENTENCE

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

Chaplain: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:

All: And all flesh shall see it together.

COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

O SAPIENTIA

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O ADONAI

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the Bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law in Sinai:

Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

ANTHEM

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed:
And all flesh shall see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Words *Isaiah 40 v 5*

Music *George Frideric Handel*
(1685–1759)

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11 vv 1–5
Read by a Chorister

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL

THERE IS NO ROSE

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
<i>Alleluia.</i> | 3 | By that rose we may well see
That He is God in persons three,
<i>Pares forma.</i> |
| 2 | For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
<i>Res miranda.</i> | 4 | Now leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth;
<i>Transeamus.</i> |

Words *15th century*

Music *Graham Jordan Ellis*
(b. 1952)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 24 vv 36-44
Read by the Choir Prefect

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HYMN



1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.
4. At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluya, Alleluya
Alleluya, Lord most high!

Words from the *Liturgy of St. James*
Tr. Gerard Moultrie (1829-85)

Tune PICARDY
French carol, probably 17th century
found in Tiersot's 'Mélodies' Paris 1887

Please sit

II THE WORD OF GOD

SENTENCE

O people of Sion, behold the Lord is nigh at hand to redeem the nations, and in the gladness of your heart the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard.

Chaplain: Declare his honour unto the nations

All: And his wonders unto all people.

COLLECT

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O RADIX JESSE

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek:

Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

O CLAVIS DAVID

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest and no man shutteth, and shuttest and no man openeth:

Come, and bring the prisoner out of the prison house.

CAROL

ADAM LAY YBOUNDEN

Adam lay ybounden,
bounden in a bond;
four thousand winter
thought he not too long.

Ne had the apple taken been,
the apple taken been,
ne had never our lady
a-been heavené queen.

And all was for an apple,
an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden
written in their book.

Blessed be the time
that apple taken was,
therefore we moun singen:
Deo gracias!

Words *Anonymous, 15th century*

Music *Boris Ord*
(1897–1961)

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 2 vv 1-5

Read by a Member of Staff

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

THIS IS THE TRUTH SENT FROM ABOVE

1 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.

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

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

5 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.

3 Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run,
That he would redeem us by his Son.

Words *anonymous*

Music *English traditional carol*
arr. *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
(1872–1958)

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 4 vv 14–21

Read by a Parent

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HYMN



Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words *Charles Wesley*
(1707–1788)

Tune **CROSS OF JESUS**
John Stainer
(1840–1901)

Please sit

III THE PROPHETIC CALL

SENTENCE

Behold, I will send my Messenger and he shall prepare the way before me.

Chaplain: Prepare ye the way of the Lord:

All: Make his paths straight.

COLLECT

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy Messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O ORIENS

O Day-spring, Brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness:

Come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

O REX GENTIUM

O King of the nations, and their Desire; the Corner-stone who makest both one:

Come, and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.

BENEDICTUS

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel : for he hath visited and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets : which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies : and from the hand of all that hate us.
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers : and to remember his holy Covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham : that he would give us;
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies : might serve him without fear;
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.
And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God : whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death : and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Words *Luke 1 vv 68-79*

Music Service in *Bb*
Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852–1924)

FIFTH LESSON
Malachi 3 vv 1–7
Read by a Governor

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

MATIN RESPONSORY

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?

Words *adapted from a Magnificat*

Music *Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina*
(1525–1594)

SIXTH LESSON
Matthew 3 vv 1–11
Read by the Director of Music

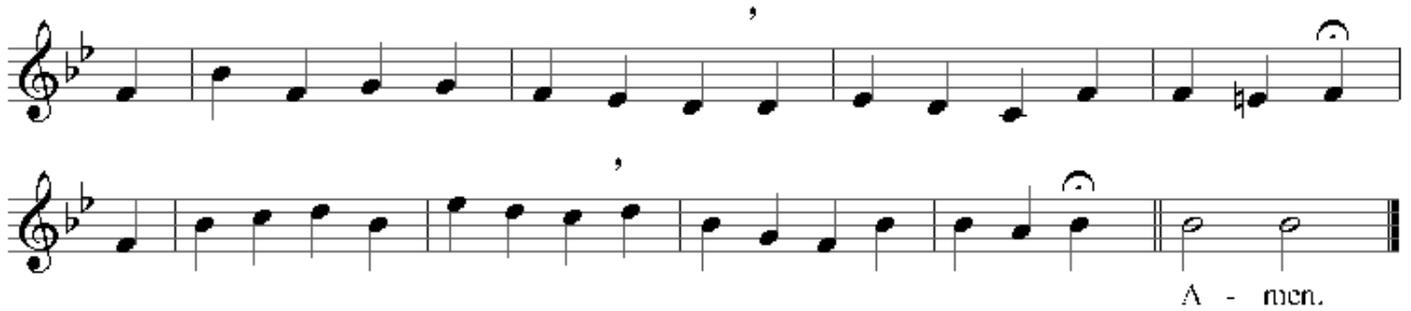
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HYMN

Stand



On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from 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 blest, for evermore. Amen.

Words *Charles Coffin*
(1676–1749)
Tr. *John Chandler*
(1808–1876)

Tune WINCHESTER NEW
Adapted from a chorale in
'Musicalisches Hand-Buch' Hamburg 1690

Please sit

IV THE CHRIST-BEARER

SENTENCE

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, 'God with us.'

Chaplain: Unto us a child is born:

All: Unto us a Son is given.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst stoop to raise our fallen race by the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen thy glory manifested in our flesh, and thy love perfected in our weakness, may daily be renewed in thine image, and conformed to the likeness of thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation:

Come and save us O Lord, our God.

ANTHEM

BÖGÖRODITSE DYEVO

Bögöroditse Dyevo, raduissya,
blagödatnaya Mariye, Gospod s Töboyu.
Blagöslövyenna Tyi vshenakh,
i blagöslövyen Plod Chryeva Tvöyego,
yako Spassa rödila yessi dush nashikh.

Rejoice, O Virgin Mother,
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
for thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.

Words *Traditional Christian prayer*
Luke 1 vv. 28, 42

Music *Sergei Rachmaninoff*
(1873-1943)

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 1 vv 39–49

Read by the Chaplain

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Words *Luke 1 vv. 46–55*

Music Service in Bb
Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852–1924)

EIGHTH LESSON

Revelation 21 vv 1–4

Read by the Headmaster of Preparatory Department

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SENTENCE

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.

Chaplain: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:

All: For he hath visited and redeemed his people.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

Please stand

HYMN



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign. | 3 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! |
| 2 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. | 4 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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come! |

Words Charles Wesley
(1707–1788)

Tune HELMSLEY
Included in Wesley's Select Hymns 1765

A PRAYER FOR THE SCHOOL

Remain Standing

Bless, Lord, this School, that it may be a place where love of neighbour and love of learning forever flourish. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ORGAN MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

Toccata from Suite Gothique

Léon Boëllmann
(1862-1897)

The organ is played by Mr Michael Reynolds
Organist at Tarvin Church, Chester

There will be a retiring collection. Proceeds will go to this term's charities.



You are warmly invited to our forthcoming Christmas services:

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*Sunday 14 December at 4.30 p.m. and at 6.30 p.m.
Chapel doors open at 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.*

The Midnight Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher: Revd Peter Howell-Jones, Vice-Dean, Chester Cathedral

*Wednesday 24 December at 11.00 p.m.
Chapel doors open at 10.30 p.m.*