



Diocese of Ely
THREE RIVERS GROUP

Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett, Snailwell



Virtual Advent Carol Service

Sunday 29th November 2020

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light.

Romans 13: 12

Matin Responsory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7R8EnwW4nVg>

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 cov'ring 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?

The Bidding Prayer

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over. And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, praying:

**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.

Reading: Genesis 1: 1 - 5 And God said, Let there be light.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

For the Word of the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y5N6oxIKH0>

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

Chorus

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.**

Chorus

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.**

Chorus

**Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.**

Chorus

Reading: Psalm 13 Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death

How long will you forget me, O Lord; for ever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long shall I have anguish in my soul and grief in my heart, day after day? How long shall my enemy triumph over me? Look upon me and answer, O Lord my God; lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death; Lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed against him,' and my foes rejoice that I have fallen. But I put my trust in your steadfast love; my heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt so bountifully with me.

For the Word of the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcllZpnZPgo>

**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! Emmanuel...***

**O come, O come, thou dayspring bright! Pour on our souls thy healing light;
dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom, and pierce the shadows of the tomb.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**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.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**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! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Reading: Isaiah 45: 2 – 8 I form light and create darkness

I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things. Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the LORD have created it.

For the Word of the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff8Kiqyo6_E

Drop down ye heavens from above – Heathcote Statham

*Drop down ye heavens from above and let the stars pour down righteousness
Let the earth open and let them bring forth salvation and let righteousness
spring up together. Mercy and truth are met together righteousness and peace
have kissed each other. Truth shall flourish out of the earth and righteousness
hath looked down from heaven. Alleluia*

Reading: Baruch 4.36-5.9 Look to the east

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. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

For the Word of the Lord: **thanks be to God**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GD9ucg8zusg> - People Look East, Trepte

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Reading: Isaiah 9: 2,3,6,7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

For the Word of the Lord: **thanks be to God**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owcn6fgYwpw> – Handel

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called wonderful counsellor, the mighty God the everlasting Father, the prince of peace.

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11, 23,24

You are not in darkness, or you are all children of light

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may

your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

For the Word of the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlszhvHjBxQ>

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, 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, with what rapture, 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! O come quickly! O come quickly! Alleluia! Come Lord, come.**

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.

Closing Voluntary - Bach - Choral Prelude "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSkz3j9b23Y>