

An Advent Sequence

Veni Emmanuel

Based on an order by the Royal School of Church Music

O come,
O come,
Emmanuel

In the Middle Ages, the Church kept Advent as a season of great solemnity – a time in which to meditate upon the ultimate issues of death, judgement, hell and heaven. Advent was also a time of great rejoicing. For Christ would come, not only as Judge, but also as Saviour, and would usher in the Kingdom of God. Advent, therefore, provided a vivid preparation for Christmas. Processions from west to east, and the use of lights, spoke of the Church's hope in the coming of Christ – the Light of the world – to banish sin and darkness. Antiphons were sung, calling upon God to deliver his people, and readings from the Old Testament were seen as pointing to the fulfilment of God's purposes in Jesus.

Today's service is structured around the great Advent Antiphons, known as the Great 'Os'. These were sung originally as Antiphons to the Magnificat at the Evening Office from 17th to 23rd December, and have provided a rich source of devotional imagery in Advent. The readings and music serve to complement the Antiphons, and help us reflect on the theme of the Christ who comes to judge and save his people. The Antiphons are gathered together in the final hymn, O come, O come, Emmanuel, sung in confident hope in the One who is to come.

This is the seventh year we have used this order at Mark the Evangelist, with variations in the readings, settings and carols each year.



Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

20 December 2020

Advent 4B

All are invited to stay for refreshments after the worship service.

Gathering

PRELUDE G Liardon, *Prelude and petite fugue sur Veni, Emmanuel*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

(Verse 1 – cantor and choir only. Verse 2 and hallelujahs – choir and congregation together)

1. Ye gates, lift up your heads on high; ye doors that last for
 2. Ye gates lift up your heads; ye doors, doors that do last for

ay, be lift-ed up, that so the King of glo-ry en-ter may. (Men:) But
 ay, be lift-ed up that so the King of glo-ry en-ter may. (Men:) But

1. who of glo-ry is the King? (All:) The
 who is he that is the King, (All:) the King of migh-ty Lord is this, ev'n
 who is he that is the King, (All:) the King of glo-ry, who is this? The

that same Lord, that great in might and strong in bat-tle
 Lord of hosts, and none but he, the King of glo-ry

is, ev'n that same Lord that great in might and strong in bat-tle is.
 is, the Lord of hosts, and none but he, the King of glo-ry is.

(After v.2)

Hal - le-lu - jah, Hal - le-lu - jah, Hal - le-lu - jah, Ha - le-lu - jah,

Hal - le-lu - jah, A - men, A - men, A - men.

Words: Scottish Psalter 1650
 Music: Andrew Mitchell Thompson
 Public Domain

WITH THE CHILDREN An introduction to the service

The O Antiphons

O SAPIENTIA

MtE 1A

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
 reaching from end to end,
 ordering all things with strength and gentleness:
 Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

READING 1 – Ecclesiasticus 24. 1–9

HYMN 548 Eternal light, shine in my heart

TIS 548 tune 332

Eternal light, shine in my heart;
 eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
 eternal power, be my support;
 eternal wisdom, make me wise.

Eternal life, raise me from death
 eternal brightness, help me see
 eternal Spirit, give me breath;
 eternal Saviour, come to me;

until by your most costly grace,
 invited by your holy word,
 at last I come before your face
 to know you, my eternal God.

Words by Christopher Martin Idle
 based on a prayer from Alcuin (735-804)

© 1982 Hope Publishing Used By Permission. CCLI Licence #449158



O ADONAI

MtE 1B

O Adonai, Leader of the house of Israel
you appeared in the burning bush to Moses,
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come with outstretched arm to save us.

READING 2 – Exodus 3. 1-6

Psalm 136 Selected verses

Tone: PCS p343



TONE



REFRAIN: Organ, then cantor, then all together (sung also at the end).
The psalm text is then sung responsively to the TONE

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love end- | -ures for ever.
- ² O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love end- | -ures for ever.
- ³ O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- ⁴ who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- ...¹⁰ who struck Egypt through their firstborn,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- ¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- ...²³ It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

- ²⁴ and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
- ²⁵ who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
- ²⁶ O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Text: NRSV



O RADIX JESSE

MtE 1C

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign for all peoples,
before you all rulers will keep silent,
and nations lift up their prayers
Come quickly to deliver us.

READING 3 – Isaiah 11. 1-4a, 10

HYMN Behold, a rose is growing

Hymn 294

1. Behold, a rose is growing,
of loveliest form and grace,
as prophets sang, foreknowing;
it springs from Jesse's race,
and comes a perfect flower,
in midst of coldest winter,
at deepest midnight hour.

2. Isaiah hath foretold it
in words of promise sure,
and Mary's arms enfold it -
a gentle maiden pure.
Through God's eternal will
this child to her is given
at midnight calm and still.

3. This rose, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendour
the darkness everywhere.
As human, yet true God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.

4. O Saviour, child of Mary,
you felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of glory.
you all our weakness know.
Lead us at last, we pray,
to the full joys of heaven
and into endless day.

*Words: Harriet Reynold Spaeth and John Caspar Mattes
Public Domain.*



O CLAVIS DAVID

MtE 1D

O Key of David, Sceptre over the house of Israel
you open and none can close,
you close and none can open:
Come to set free the prisoners who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.

READING 4 – Jeremiah 23. 5-6

HYMN Like a candle flame

RSCM 16

In the refrain, female voices come in on the “-lu-” of “alleluia”; all voices sing the final “alleluia” together

1 Like a candle flame,
flick'ring small in our darkness.
Uncreated light
shines through infant eyes.

(Men:) *God is with us, alleluia,*

(Women:) *God is with us, alleluia,*

(Men:) *come to save us, alleluia,*

(Women:) *come to save us,*

(Together:) *alleluia!*

2 Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark
set a world on fire?

(Men:) *God is with us, alleluia,*

(Women:) *God is with us, alleluia,*

(Men:) *come to save us, alleluia,*

(Women:) *come to save us,*

(Together:) *alleluia!*

3 Yet His light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame
of His holy fire.

(Men:) *God is with us, alleluia,*

(Women:) *God is with us, alleluia,*

(Men:) *come to save us, alleluia,*

(Women:) *come to save us,*

(Together:) *alleluia!*

*Words and music: Graham Kendrick
Copyright © 1998 Make Way Music. All rights reserved.
Used with permission under CCLI License #449158.*



O ORIENS

MtE 1E

O Morning Star, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice:
Come, and shine on those who live in darkness
and the shadow of death.

Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

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.

Public Domain

READING 5 – John 1.19-28

HYMN Creator of the stars of night

Conditor



Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Saviour, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendour bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

O REX GENTIUM

MtE 1F

O King of nations and their desire, the cornerstone,
which binds together:
Come, and save us whom you formed from the dust of the earth.

READING 6 – Revelation 22. 12-13, 16-17, 20

Hymn Hark the glad sound!

Hymn 269

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
3. He comes the prisoners to release,
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
4. He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,

and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humbled poor.

6. Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

*Philip Doddridge
Public Domain*



O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel,
our Sovereign and lawgiver, hope and Saviour of nations:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

MtE 1G

READING 7 – Matthew 1.18-25

CAROL Long ago, prophets knew

Hymn 283

1. LONG ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
Bear his people's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

2. God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,

Born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Refrain:

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

3. Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected. *Refrain*

4. Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry! *Refrain*

*Words by Frank Pratt Green
© Stainer and Bell;*

*music by Gustav Holst, arrangement John Wilson © OUP.
Used by permission. CCLI Licence #449158*



The Eucharist

THE CONFESSION, DECLARATION OF FORGIVEN AND INVITATION

...your sins are forgiven!
thanks be to God!

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

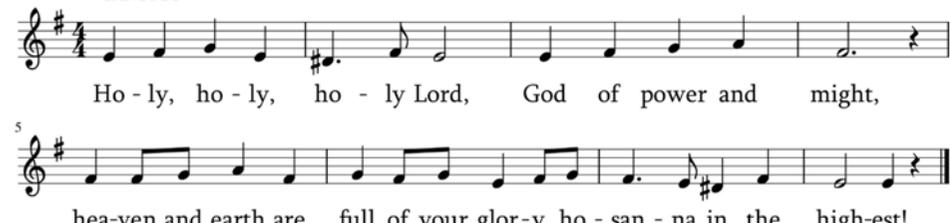
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

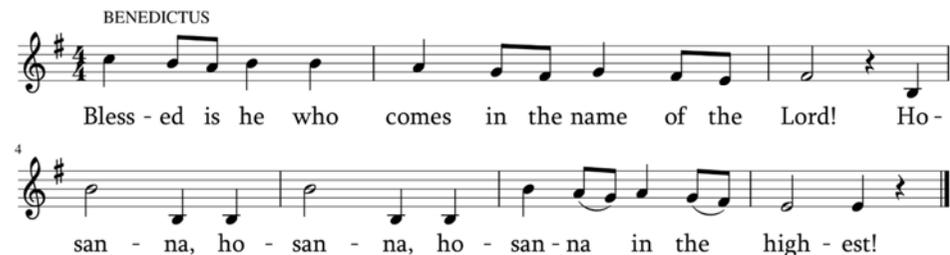
(The prayer continues...)

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
5 hea-ven and earth are full of your glor-y, ho - san - na in the high-est!

BENEDICTUS



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho -
4 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

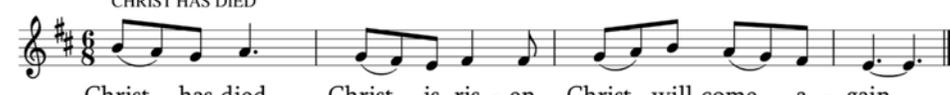
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

(The prayer continues...)

CHRIST HAS DIED



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

(The prayer continues...)

BLESSING AND HONOUR



Bless-ing and hon - our, glo-ry and power are yours for e - ver - more

*Blessing and honour, glory and power
are yours forever more.*

(INCLUDING THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE)

...Come, Lord, and in your mercy,
hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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.*

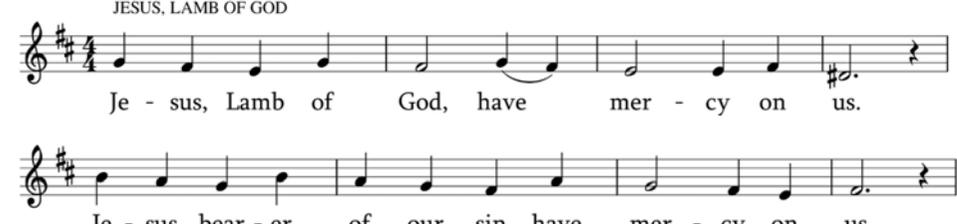
*For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.*

(The people sit)

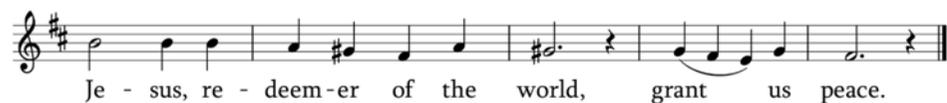
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

...The gifts of God for the people of God.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus bear - er of our sin have mer - cy on us.



*Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
 Jesus, bearer of our sin, have mercy on us.
 Jesus, redeemer of the world,
 grant us peace.*

THE COMMUNION

The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

The Eucharist in the context of COVID-19. Given the present health crisis, the distribution of communion will be limited to one of the church's historic practices – 'under one kind', or receiving the bread only. The bread will be broken at the table after the hands of the celebrant have been sanitised, and the bread will be covered until that point.

The bread will be served to members who present themselves in a single file down the centre of the church; please maintain the usual C-19 distancing while waiting to receive. AND, please feel free to refrain from receiving under the current circumstances, if this feels appropriate to you.

[OFFERING]

For the time-being, financial offerings will not be collected from the pews but should be made in the designated offering box as you enter the church. If you miss the opportunity, you can put it in the box after the service!



HYMN – O come, O come, Emmanuel

RSCM 46

We stand for this hymn

- 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, true Branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:
- 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:
- 4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:
- 5 O come, O come thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

*Words: from the Latin (13th century)
 J M Neale (1818–1866) and others
 Public Domain*

BLESSING

ORGAN POSTLUDE D Buxtehude, *Wie schoen leuchtet der morgenstern*