O come, O come, Emmanuel

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

18 December 2022

Advent 4A

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

An Advent Sequence

Veni Emmanuel

Based on an order by the Royal School of Church Music

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.

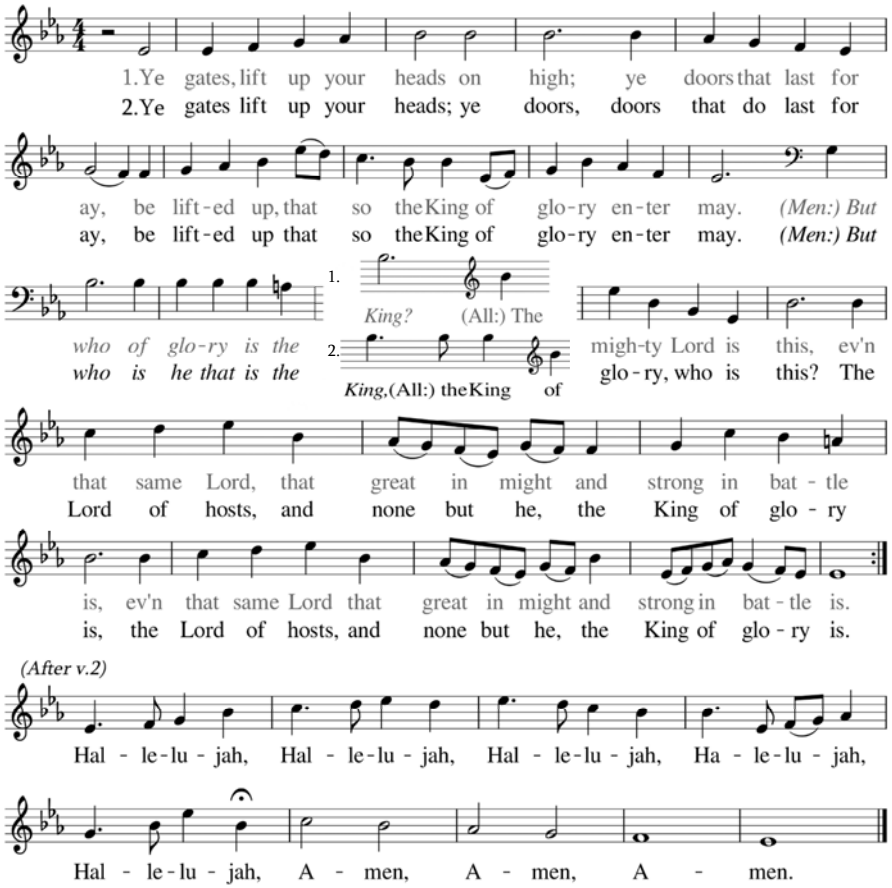
This is the ninth year we have used this order at Mark the Evangelist, with variations in the readings, settings and carols each year.

Gathering

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *TIS 12*

(We stand for the procession. Verse 1 – cantor and choir only. Verse 2 and hallelujahs – choir and congregation together)



Words: Scottish Psalter 1650
Music: Andrew Mitchell Thompson
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WITH THE CHILDREN An introduction to the service

The fourth Advent Candle is lit

The O Antiphons

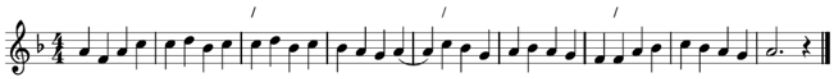
O SAPIENTIA *MtE 1A*

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 Creator of the stars of night *Conditor*

We remain seated for the hymn.



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.

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.

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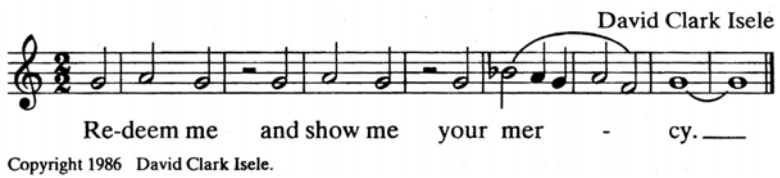
O ADONAÏ *MtE 1B*

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 26 *PCS 24*

REFRAIN: Organ, then cantor, then all together



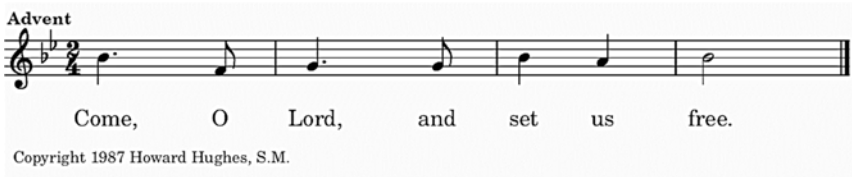
O RADIX JESSE *MtE 1C*

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

Psalm 72.1-7,10-14 *May all kings fall down before him* *PCS 64*

REFRAIN: Organ, then cantor, then all together (sung also at the end).



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 Long ago, prophets knew *Hymn 283*

We stand for this hymn.

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*

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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.

READING 5 – John 1.19-28

HYMN The Magnificat *Hymn 172*

We remain seated for the hymn.

The cantor sings the first two verses; the congregation joins at verse 3:

1. *My soul gives glory to my God.*
   My heart pours out its praise.
   God lifted up my lowliness
   in many marvellous ways.

2. *My God has done great things for me:*
   yes, holy is God's name.
   All people will declare me blessed,
   and blessings they shall claim.

3. From age to age to all who fear,
   such mercy love imparts,
   dispensing justice far and near,
   dismissing selfish hearts.

4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
   promotes the insecure,
   leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
   the rich seem suddenly poor.

5. Praise God, whose loving covenant
   supports those in distress,
   remembering past promises
   with present faithfulness.

Words from Luke 1.46ff, paraphrased by Miriam Therese Winter
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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! (vv.1, 4-6) *Hymn 269*

We stand for this hymn

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
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O EMMANUEL *MtE 1G*

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

READING 7 – Luke 2.1-7

HYMN Like a candle flame *RSCM 16*

We remain seated for this hymn. In the refrain, the east side of the congregation (closest to the stained-glass windows) begins the refrain, with the west side coming in on the "-lu-" of "alleluia"; we sing the final "alleluia" together.

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

(East:) *God is with us, alleluia,*
(West:) *God is with us, alleluia,*
(East:) *come to save us, alleluia,*
(West:) *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?
(East:) *God is with us, alleluia,*
(West:) *God is with us, alleluia,*
(East:) *come to save us, alleluia,*
(West:) *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.
(East:) *God is with us, alleluia,*
(West:) *God is with us, alleluia,*
(East:) *come to save us, alleluia,*
(West:) *come to save us,*
(Together:) *alleluia!*

[REPEAT REFRAIN]

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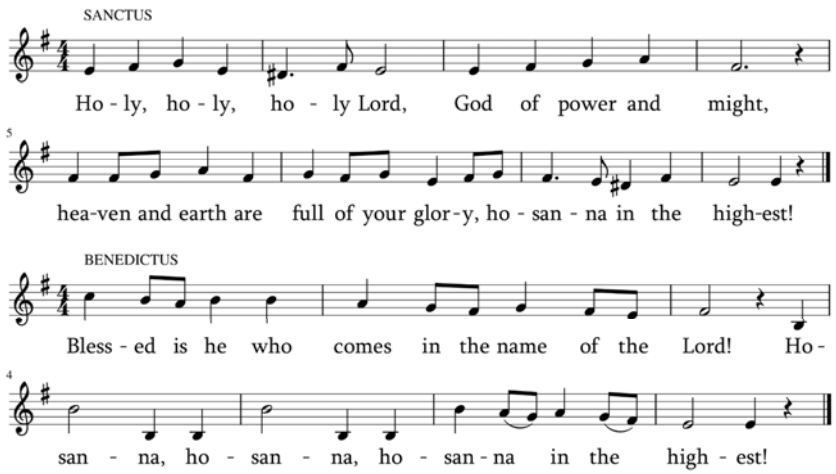
The Eucharist

THE CONFESSION, DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND INVITATION

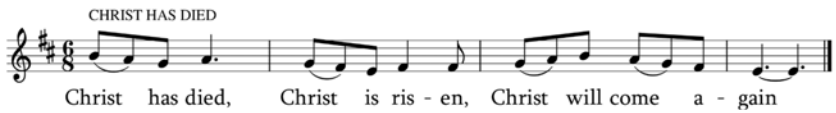
...your sins are forgiven!
thanks be to God!

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...)

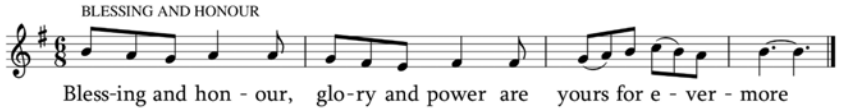


Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
(The prayer continues...)



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

(The prayer continues…)



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

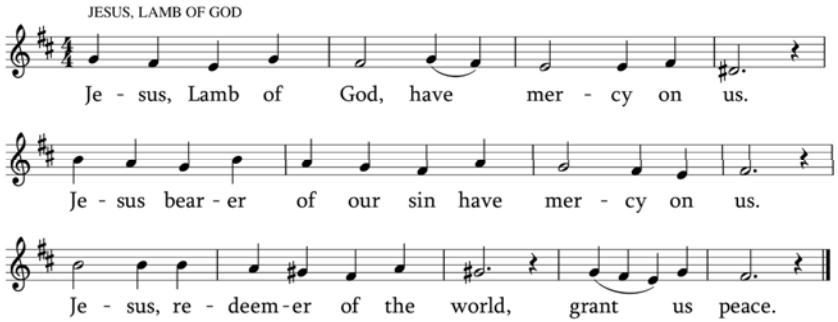
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, 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.

After the invitation, and commencing from the front rows, please come forward in single file to the table, where you will be offered the bread at one point and the wine (in communion glasses only) at a second point. The wine has been prepared with as much COVID-19 precaution as practicable, and the celebrant and wine-server have sanitised their hands prior to the distribution. The common cup will only be used by the celebrant

If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the celebrant has not already noticed you.

[OFFERING]

Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.

Conclusion

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:
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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
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BLESSING

ORGAN POSTLUDE J S Bach, *Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern*

We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

Our email address is:
enquiries@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

Our website is:
http://marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au/