

O come, O come, Emmanuel

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



The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist

22 December 2024

Advent 4C

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

Gathering

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PRELUDE GF Handel, *Messiah: Pifa*

PROCESSIONAL 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.

WITH THE CHILDREN An introduction to the service

The fourth Advent Candle is lit

The *O Antiphons*

READING 1 – Ecclesiasticus 24.1–9

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 2 – Exodus 3.1–6

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.

Psalm 26.1-3,8-11

PCS 24

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

David Clark Isele

Re-deem me and show me your mer - cy. —

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**READING 3 – Isaiah 11.1-4a, 10****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 4 – Jeremiah 23. 5-6****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 5 – Luke 1.26-38****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.

**HYMN The Magnificat**

Hymn 172

We remain seated for the hymn.

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

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.

Hymn Hark the glad sound! (vv.1, 4-6)

Hymn 269

We remain seated 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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READING 7 – Matthew 1.18-25

O EMMANUEL

MtE 1G

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



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*

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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The Eucharist

THE CONFESSION, DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS AND INVITATION

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

HYMN – YE GATES, LIFT UP YOUR HEADS

TIS 12



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,
heaven 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 -
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.

Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world, grant us peace.

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.

GATHERING: *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

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 offerings 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

TIS 265

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, 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:
- 3 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:

4 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:

5 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:

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE JS Bach, *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*

NOTICES

The Music of the Clock *Cantus temporum*

Paul Bentley-Angell, Matthew Champion,
Louisa Hunter-Bradley, Grantley McDonald,
Daniel Thomson, Quin Thomson

**January 16, 3pm,
St Mary's Anglican Church, 430 Queensbury
Street, North Melbourne
Entrance by donation**



In 1321, St Catherine's monastery in Rouen installed a clock whose mechanical bells played the Advent hymn *Conditor alme siderum* (Dear Creator of the Stars) before the striking of the hour. Over the coming centuries, musical clocks appeared across Europe, crossed the Atlantic to the Americas, and travelled with the Jesuits into Asia. In collaboration with the Australian Research Council project 'The Sounds of Time', this program explores the melodies that were played on these remarkable and innovative devices.

Hotham Mission Christmas Appeal

As we are fast approaching Christmas and the end of the year, the team at Hotham Mission would like to share some of the work we have been doing during 2024.

Thanks to the hard work of staff and our many volunteers, HM's work with the local community is still running smoothly, despite an office relocation and significant staff changes. Our regular programming throughout the year includes

- supporting 30 kids from Prep - Year 6 through our Monday and Friday Homework Clubs. The program is so successful and popular we had to cap attendance and have a waitlist.
- a weekly Young Women's program (15 - 25-year-olds) and an additional monthly book club, supported by the City of Melbourne Library staff.
- A Food Program which supports 100 local households per week through schools and other local organisations with essential food items in times of need, and some assistance to over 100 students per week through the school breakfast programs of Mount Alexander College and University High.
- the Renshaw material aid program, which assisted around 100 local High School students to access essential study materials like books and electronic devices.
- Our partnership with the Uniting - Asylum Seeker Project to provide accommodation and other support to asylum seekers

As we approach Christmas and the end of the year we will be providing over 100 Christmas Boxes to local people who are in need. And celebrating the end of the school year with the kids who we regularly work with, across all our programs. And in January 2025 we will have some holiday programs, prior to the start of regular programming for the year.

If you are interested in assisting Hotham Mission with a tax-deductible donation, you can do so via Give Now

(<https://www.givenow.com.au/ucahothammission>), and if you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more, please contact the team on Ph: (03) 9326 8245 or E: programs@hothammission.org.au

From the team at Hotham Mission, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am at the CTM

January Services

Jan 5 Peter Blackwood
Jan 12 Peter Blackwood
Jan 19 Rob Gotch

Church Council

Feb 4 (online)
Feb 7 in DML
Weekly from March 5 / 7

Quarterly Conversation

Lenten Studies (book details online soon)

People to commemorate this week

Stephen, martyr

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Japan, North Korea, South Korea

Lectionary Readings | 29 December 2024

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

A Parish Mission of the UCA, MtE is responsible for Hotham Mission

Contact: Rev Dr Craig Thompson, 0408 389 751

minister@marktheevangelist.unitingchurch.org.au

www.hothammission.org.au

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