



Exeter
Cathedral

Advent

A service of readings and carols

Sunday 29 November 2020

4.00pm

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk

Welcome to the Cathedral

The Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Exeter, founded in 1050, has been the seat [*cathedra*] of the bishop of Exeter, the symbol of his spiritual and teaching authority, for nearly 1000 years. As such the Cathedral is a centre of worship and mission for the whole of Devon. A centuries-old pattern of daily worship continues, sustained by the best of the Anglican choral tradition. The cathedral is a place of outreach, learning, and spirituality, inviting people into a richer and more engaged discipleship. The Cathedral is a destination for many pilgrims and visitors who come from near and far, drawn by the physical and spiritual heritage of this place. Exeter Cathedral belongs to all the people of Devon, and we warmly welcome you to this online service.

Giving

We rely significantly upon the generosity of our congregations and the people of Devon to sustain the Cathedral's worship and ministry. We are grateful for any donations or gifts in support of the Cathedral. For more information about planned and regular giving, please go to: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/how-to-donate/>

Safeguarding

The Chapter takes the responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults seriously in their commitment to make Exeter Cathedral a safe and welcoming place. If you have any concerns please discuss them with a member of the Cathedral Chapter or contact the Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor, Charlie Pitman, Tel. 01392 345909

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Responsory

The choir sings

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: Aspicebam at Matins for Advent Sunday
(Use of Salisbury)*

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Hymn

The choir sings

Come, thou redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin birth:
let ev'ry age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.

Forth from his chamber goeth he,
that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one,
rejoicing now his course to run.

From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds;
his course he runs to death and hell,
returning to God's throne to dwell.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness breathe a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene
and twilight never intervene.

All laud, eternal Son, to thee
whose Advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

Words: St Ambrose (c.340-397)

Tr. J.M. Neale (1818-1866)

Music: Puer Nobis Nascitur (Michael Praetorius 1571-1621)

arr. Timothy Noon (b.1974)

The Bidding

The Canon Chancellor says

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be
with you
and also with you.

My brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world.

Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

Silence is kept.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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

*read by Archie Tripp
Senior Chorister*

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.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

The choir sings

Adam lay y bounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady a been heavene queen,
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias.

*Text: Anon. 15th Century,
Music: Philip Ledger (1937-2012)*

Reading

Isaiah 45.2-8

read by Alice Risdon

Choral Scholar

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.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The choir sings

Exsurge; quare obdormis Domine?
Exurge, et ne repellas in finem.
Quare faciem tuam avertis? Oblivisceris tribulationem nostram?
Exsurge, Domine, adjuva nos, et libera nos propter nomen tuum.

*Arise, why sleepest thou, O Lord? Arise, and expel me not to the end.
Why dost thou turn away thy face, forgetting our poverty and our
tribulation? Arise, Lord, and help us: and deliver us for thy name's
sake.*

Text: Psalm 43: 23-26

Music: William Byrd (1543-1623)

Reading

Baruch 4.36-59

read by Joseph Patkai

Special Projects and Volunteers Assistant

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.

Thanks be to God

Hymn

The choir sings

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.*

O come, thou rod 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...

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:
Rejoice...

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:
Rejoice...

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:
Rejoice...

Words: Latin Advent Antiphons

Tr J.M. Neale (1818-1866)

Tune: Veni Emmanuel (Thomas Helmore 1811-1890)

Reading

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11, 23, 34

read by James Featherstone

Headmaster, Exeter Cathedral School

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.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The choir sings

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail!' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head:
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name:'
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

*Text: Basque carol
(Birjina gaztetto bat zegoen),
paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)
Music: Philip Moore (b1943)*

Reading

Luke 12:35-40

*read by the Ven David Gunn-Johnson
Priest Vicar*

Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

Collect

The Precentor sings

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Canon Steward says

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The choir sings

Hymn

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
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,
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
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:
Alleluia!
thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune: Helmsley (collected by Thomas Olivers, c.1763)

Organ Voluntary

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