

Advent Lessons and Carols

December 7, 2017 Six o'clock in the evening

≈ Bridging Faith and Learning «



This Vespers service heralds the Advent coming of Christ, both celebrating Jesus' incarnate birth and awaiting his second coming in majesty. Through Scripture and music, we will hear the promises of God echoing down the ages through the biblical prophets. These promises are fulfilled in Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us.

The congregation is asked to remain silent during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.

Organ Prelude

*CHORAL INTROIT

Prayer for the Blessing of Light

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, eternal creator of day and night. Now, as darkness is falling, hear the prayer of your faithful people. Wash away our transgressions, cleanse us by your refining fire, and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.

May we live in watchfulness as we wait for the coming of your Son Jesus Christ, who shall judge the world and all its works.

Rouse us then from the sleep of sin, and make us ready to enter your kingdom where songs of praise forever sound.

For you are the true light, who lightens everyone, and the new heavens and the new earth join to sing your praise now and for evermore. Amen.

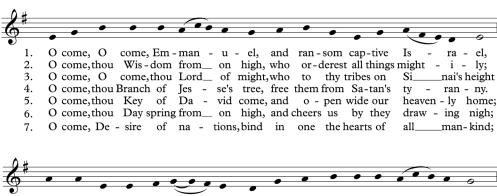
—The Promise of His Glory (Archbishop's Council)

*Greeting and Opening Prayer

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL



that mourns in lone ly ex - ile here un- til the Son of God_ ap pear to us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways_ to go. in an-cient times didst give_ the law, in cloud and ma-jes - ty_ and awe. that trust thy might - y power_ to save, and give them vic-tory o'er_ the grave. make safe the way that leads_ on high, and close the path to mis - er - y. dis-perse the gloom - y clouds_ of night, and death's dark shad ow put_ to flight. bid thou our sad di-vi - sions cease, and be thy-self our King_ of Peace.



Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*BIDDING PRAYER (presiding minister only)

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.

Let us hear in Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would come among and redeem the Lord's waiting people.

Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,

that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.

Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all who believe in him into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of the Gospel, or who do not believe; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words that Christ himself taught us.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

First Lesson—Isaiah 40:1-8

To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is returning and bringing the exiles home.

ANTHEM

This Is the Truth Sent From Above

arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

This is the truth sent from above, The truth of God the God of love; Therefore don't turn me from your door, But hearken well both rich and poor.

The first thing that I will relate, That God at first did man create; The next thing which to you I'll tell Woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes Till God the Lord did interpose; And so a promise soon did run: That he'd redeem us by his Son. And at this season of the year Our blest Redeemer did appear; And here did live, and here did preach, And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved, To show us how we must be saved; And if you want to know the way, Be pleased to hear what he did say.

—Traditional English

SECOND LESSON—Jeremiah 23:5-6

The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch in the line of David, a just King who is yet to come.

Anthem

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius (1571–1621) arr. Jan Sandström

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of winter When half-spent was the night.

—German, 15th cent., trans. Theodore Baker

THIRD LESSON—Zechariah 9:9–10

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is prophesied, heralding God's coming reign of justice and peace.

*Hymn (please see the back cover of the bulletin) Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

MERTON

FOURTH LESSON—Isaiah 9:2–5

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: Jesus, who has come to break the powers of sin, evil, and death.

ANTHEM

Remember, O Thou Man

Arthur Oldham (b. 1962)

Remember O thou man, O thou man, O thou man Remember O thou man Thy time is spent, Remember O thou man, How thou cam'st to me then, And I did what I can, Therefore repent.

Remember God's goodness, O thou man, O thou man, Remember God's goodness, And promise made. Remember God's goodness How his only Son he sent, Our sins for to redress, Be not afraid.

The angels all did sing,
O thou man, O thou man,
The angels all did sing
On Sion hill,
The angels all did sing
Praises to our heav'nly king,
And peace to man living
With right good will.

To Bethlem did they go, O thou man, O thou man To Bethlem did they go, This thing to see, The Bethlem did they go, To see whether it were so, Whether Christ was born or no To set us free.

In Bethlem was he born,
O thou man, O thou man,
In Bethlem was he born,
For mankind dear,
In Bethlem he was born
For us that were forlorn,
And therefore took no scorn,
Our sins to bear.

Give thanks to God always, O thou man, O thou man, Give thanks to God always, Give thanks to God always, Upon this blessed day, With hearts most jolly. Let all men sing and say, Holy, holy.

—Thomas Ravenscroft

FIFTH LESSON—Isaiah 35:1-6

The vengeance and salvation of the Lord are declared, as the earth and God's people are redeemed.

*HYMN 196 (found in the hymnals located in the pew racks)
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Sixth Lesson—Luke 1:26–35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.

Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya, Blagodátnaya Maríye, Gospód s tobóyu. Blagoslovyéna ty v zhenákh,i blagoslovyén plod chryéva tvoyevó, yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshikh.

Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with thee: Blessed art though among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, For thou hast born the Saviour of our souls.

Seventh Lesson—Mark 1:1–15

John the Baptist proclaims the coming of Jesus, who is anointed by his Father to bring the good news of the Gospel.

ANTHEM

People, Look East

French Traditional arr. Martin Shaw

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.

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.

*Advent Prayer (in unison)

Merciful Father,

you sent your messengers the prophets

to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,

that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy

the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 718
Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

Organ Postlude

*All who are able may stand.

You are welcome to stay for the organ postlude. Should you need to leave, please do so quietly and respectfully.

Choral Vespers will return on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP	
Presiding Minister	The Rev. Bruce Puckett
Lectors	Ms. Júlia Agudogo Ms. Keegan Cheleden Ms. Krista Kowalczyk Ms. Yekaterina Kozachuk Mr. Tony Purvis Mr. John Saunders Mr. Ryan Ware
Choir	Duke Vespers Ensemble
Choir Director	Dr. Philip Cave
Organist	Mr. Christopher Jacobson

^{*}Benediction

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



Text: Latin, c. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient* and *Modern*, 1861, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1850; desc. *Psalter Hymnal*, 1987



87 87 MERTON

www.hymnary.org/text/hark_a_thrilling_voice_is_sounding