

St Matthew-in-the-City  
&  
Auckland Rainbow Community Church



Advent Lessons & Carols

14 December 2014 8pm



# Introit

*Matin Responsory*

*Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1526-1594)*

# Hymn

**Come, thou, Redeemer of the earth,  
and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
let every age adoring fall,  
such grace befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,  
but of the Spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed  
the Saviour, now to us displayed.**

**O equal to the Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,  
the weakness of our mortal state  
with deathless might invigorate.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
and darkness glow with new-born light,  
no more shall night extinguish day,  
where love's bright beams their power display.**

**O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

*Words: St Ambrose of Milan (c. 340-397), tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866)*

*Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur, melody by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)*

*as adapted from 'Piae Cantiones', 1582*

*harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934); Tis 194*

# Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, at this Advent tide, let it be our care and our delight, to hear again the prophets' call and promise of Christ's coming.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days until the coming of the Holy Child.

And as we tell this Advent story to prepare ourselves for this great mystery of the birth at Bethlehem.

Let us remember the needs of the world around us, especially those who suffer from loneliness and loss, poverty and illness, violence and war.

We pray this night for justice and peace and goodwill for all God's people.

And lastly we remember before God, all those who watch and wait with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude that no one can number, whose hope is in the Word made flesh.

These prayers and praises we most humbly offer, in the words our Saviour Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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.**

# Antiphon O Sapientia

*O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.*

*O Wisdom which came out of the mouth of the Most High and reaches from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things.  
Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

## First Lesson

*Wisdom at the beginning of creation* (Ecclesiasticus 24:3-9)

## The Advent Prose

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

*Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness,  
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house, where our forebears praised thee.*

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

*Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen;  
that ye may know me and believe me:  
I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:  
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.*

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:  
fear not, for I will save thee:  
for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.*

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.**

## Antiphon O Adonai

*O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.*

*O Adonai and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gave him the law in Sinai:  
Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.*

## Second Lesson

*Song to the Lord God on a Spring Morning*

*James K. Baxter*

## Antiphon O Radix Jesse

*O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem Gentes deprecabuntur:  
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.*

*O Root of Jesse which stands for an ensign of the people,  
at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the gentiles shall seek.  
Come and deliver us and delay not.*

## Third Lesson

*The prophet Isaiah speaks of God's reign of justice (Isaiah 11:1-4)*

## Choir

*Conditor alme siderum Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)*

# Antiphon O Clavis David

*O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vincitum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.*

*O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel that opens and no one shuts; come and bring the prisoner out of the prison, and them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.*

## Fourth Lesson

*Crying in the wilderness*

*(Carter Heyward, "Speaking of Christ: A Lesbian Feminist Voice", 1989)*

## Hymn

**Christ your sun is rising,  
and our hearts surprising,  
source of all befriending,  
spirit never-ending.**

**We may find you living,  
present in all giving,  
human face of loving,  
faithful in your moving.**

**In all pain and pleasure  
you discern our measure,  
welcoming the stranger,  
facing every danger.**

**Take away all sorrow,  
bless a new tomorrow,  
guide our liberation,  
join in celebration.**

*Words: Jenny Blood  
Tune: Ravenshaw, melody by William Henry Monk (1823-1889). TiS 427*

# Antiphon O Oriens

*O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol justitiae:  
veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.*

*O Dayspring, brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness;  
Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness, and the shadow of death.*

# Fifth Lesson

*Zechariah proclaims the coming of the Messiah* (Luke 1:68-79)

# Antiphon O Rex Gentium

*O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque  
unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.*

*O King of the nations, and their desire, the Cornerstone, who makes both  
one: Come and save humanity whom thou formed of clay.*

# Sixth Lesson

*The prophet speaks of the nature and glory of God's kingdom*  
(Isaiah 35:1-6)

# Antiphon O Emmanuel

*O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, expectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum:  
veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.*

*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,  
the Desire of all nations and their Salvation. Come and save us.*

# Seventh Lesson

*The coming of Emmanuel* (Matthew 1:18-25)

*Tonight's collection will be given to Rainbow Youth.*

## Offertory Hymn

**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 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! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**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! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, O come, thou living Source of light,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Words: based on Latin Antiphons, tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

Tune: Veni Emmanuel, plainsong melody (15th cent.)

harm John Henry Arnold (1887-1956); TIS 265

# Antiphon O Virgo Virginium

*O Virgo virginum, quomodo fiet istud? Quia nec primam similem visa es nec habere sequentem. Filiae Jerusalem, quid me admiramini? Divinum est mysterium hoc quod cernitis.*

*O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, now shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem why marvel at me? The thing which you behold is a divine mystery.*

## Eighth Lesson

*The Annunciation*

*(Luke 1:26-38)*

## Hymn

**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!**

*Words: Basque Carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)  
Tune: Gabriel's Message. TIS 302*

## Choir

*Ave maris stella*

*Josquin de Prez (1450-1521)*

# Advent Collects

## The Blessing

### Hymn

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in awesome majesty;  
those who have betrayed and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, 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, with what rapture, with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Sing Amen! Let all adore you,  
high on your eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for your own:  
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!  
Hallelujah! come, Lord, come.**

# Organ Voluntary

*Fugue in E-flat major, BWV 552*

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

This service has a long tradition in preparing us for the festival of Christmas. The readings from the prophets and the music reflecting themes of Advent waiting and hoping point us to the birth of the Christ child. The music is distinctive in its antiphonal style, following a pattern of call and response. It was widely used in Greek and Jewish liturgy, and entered the Christian tradition in the second century, after Ignatius of Antioch had a vision of two angels singing responsively. Eastern Orthodox churches use this music extensively. For Western churches, the Gregorian chant is the most common expression, now experiencing a renewed popularity.

## *St Matthew's Voices*

*James Butler, Warren Kilham, Matt Pestle, Dmitry Rusakov, Ben Tan*

*Michael CW Bell*

*You are invited to keep this copy of the Advent Lessons and Carols service  
and take it home with you to share with another member of your family,  
or with a friend.*

***Reproduced with permission under license #A19675, LicenSingOnline***