

**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF MELBOURNE,
SMISBY, STANTON & TICKNALL**



**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
“The King and his Kingdom”**

St Michael with St Mary, Melbourne

Recorded
Saturday 12th December 2020

Order of Service

Introit: The truth from above *English trad. arr. Vaughan Williams*

Bidding Prayer:

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

We are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope. And as we seek to renew our allegiance to God's loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death.

May God, of his grace and mercy, grant to all his people a new trust in his good providence and a new obedience to his sovereign word, for to him is most justly due all glory, honour, worship and praise, world without end.

Silence is kept

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.

All: Amen.

Hymn: Come thou long expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Reading 1: "Rejoice greatly; your king comes to you"
(Zechariah 9 v 9 -12)

Choir: People, look east *Besançon Carol arr. Martin Shaw*

Reading 2: "I will raise up for David a righteous branch"
(Jeremiah 23 v 5-8)

Hymn: 11 O come, O come Emmanuel
v.3 women & children, v.4 men

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.

3. O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

4. O Come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

5. O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the elder Law.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Reading 3: "Open to me the gates of righteousness"
(Psalm 118 v 19-29)

Choir: O Radiant Dawn *James MacMillan (b. 1969)*

Reading 4: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light"
(Isaiah 9 v 2, 6-7)

Hymn: Hark! A herald voice is calling

1 Hark! A herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

4 So when next he comes in glory,
And earth's final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.

3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

5 Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run.

Choir: Magnificat in C *Charles Villiers Stanford*

Reading 5: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son"
(Isaiah 7 v 10-15)

Hymn: On Jordan's bank

1 ON Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come then and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every Christian
breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
And wither like a flower decayed.

4 Stretch forth thine hand to heal our
sore,
And make us rise, to fall no more;
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore.

Reading 6: "Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed"
(Romans 12 v 1-2 & 13 v 11-14)

Choir: Creator of the stars of night *Malcolm Archer*

Reading 7: "Keep awake for you know neither the day nor the hour"
(Matthew 25 v 1-13)

Hymn: Hark the glad sound

1 HARK the glad sound! The Saviour
comes,
The Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

2 He comes the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
Enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.

Choir: E'en so Lord Jesus *Paul Manz*

Intercessions:

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Awaiting his coming in glory, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All: 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.**

Hymn: Lo he comes with clouds descending

1 LO! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya!
God appears, on earth to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.

3 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!

4 Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Conclusion:

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light.
Come, O Lord, comfort the souls of your servants.

All: Even so, Lord, come.

O Lord Jesus Christ, come

All: at evening time, with light,

and in the morning, with your glory,

All: to guide our feet into the way of peace.

He who receives our prayers says:

Surely I come quickly.

I am the root and offspring of David,

I am the bright and morning star.

All: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Choir: Vesper Responsory *adapted Palestrina*

Organ: 'Herr Christ der ein'ge Gottes Sohn' (BWV 601) *J.S.Bach*

Music Director: Simon Collins

Organist: Tom Corfield