



**MORNING WORSHIP:  
A LIVESTREAMED SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**ADVENT SUNDAY**  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020



**ON THIS ADVENT SUNDAY THIS MORNING'S LIVESTREAMED SERVICE WILL INCLUDE THE SEVEN TRADITIONAL ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT.**

**THESE DECLARE SEVEN OF THE SCRIPTURAL TITLES BY WHICH GOD'S MESSIAH WILL BE KNOWN. EACH ALSO REFERS TO A PROPHECY OF ISAIAH FOR THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH.**

**EACH PLAINSONG ANTIPHON WILL BE SUNG BY OUR CANTOR, DURING WHICH A CANDLE WILL BE LIT**

***DUE TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS APPLIED BY THE NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE, NO CONGREGATIONS ARE PERMITTED TO ATTEND SERVICES INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL ON SUNDAYS 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, AND 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVESTREAMED USING THE NEW CATHEDRAL WEBCAM FACILITY AND INTEGRATED SOUND SYSTEM.***

**Music before the Service:** Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659, J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*A first candle is lit whilst the soloist sings the **ANTIPHON** O Sapientia*

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily, and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

## **WELCOME FROM THE DEAN**

### **THE GREETING**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.**

*A second candle is lit whilst the soloist sings the **ANTIPHON** O Adonai*

O Adonai, and Leader of the House of Israel, who appearedst in the Bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law in Sinai: Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

### **PENITENCE**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins. *cf 1 Corinthians 4.5*

Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD**

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

*A third candle is lit whilst the soloist sings the **ANTIPHON** O radix Jesse*

O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

**PSALM: 80:1-8, 18-20**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦

**you that led Joseph like a flock;**

Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦

**before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Stir up your mighty strength ♦

**and come to our salvation.**

Turn us again, O God; ♦

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts, ♦

**how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**

You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦

**you give them abundance of tears to drink.**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦

**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, ♦

**the son of man you made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we not go back from you; ♦

**give us life, and we shall call upon your name.**

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; ♦

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning, is now,**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*A fourth candle is lit whilst the soloist sings the **ANTIPHON** O Clavis David*

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest, and no man shutteth; and shuttest and no man openeth: Come and bring the prisoner out of the prisonhouse, and him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,

no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO:** Adam lay ybounden *Boris Ord (1897-1961)*

Adam lay ybounden,  
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,  
Abeen heavené queen.

Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we may singen  
Deo gracias!

*Words: anonymous 15<sup>th</sup> Century*

**SECOND READING:** Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*A fifth candle is lit whilst the soloist sings the **ANTIPHON** O Oriens*

O Dayspring, Brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness: Come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

**SERMON** by the Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*A sixth candle is lit whilst the soloist sings the ANTIPHON* O Rex Gentium

O King of the nations, and their Desire, the Cornerstone, who makest both one: Come and save mankind, whom thou formedst of clay.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen  
and grant her government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness  
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people  
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,  
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us  
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

## THE ADVENT COLLECT

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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day: Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 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, praying for a world rocked by Coronavirus, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness, praying for all regions where conflict and terror still abound, 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, praying for Christian leaders, especially Bishop George and Bishop David, and all who share this service with us today, 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, praying for all who are sick and those for whom we are especially concerned from our cathedral community and beyond, 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, praying for all who face economic hardship, mental illness or bereavement during these weeks of Covid restrictions, 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, praying for grace and courage to face the present circumstances with faith and hope, 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:

*Silence is kept.*

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. Amen.**

## A PRAYER DURING THIS TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all who care for the sick, and those suffering from or recovering from Coronavirus. Give your strength to all who work in nursing homes, and all who give care in the community. Continue to protect our communities in this new wave of infection we pray, and give wisdom to all who have responsibility in church and society for leading us forward. This we ask in the name of the one who spent himself in service of others with no thought for himself, even our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*A seventh candle is lit whilst the soloist sings the ANTIPHON* O Emmanuel

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

## ADVENT BLESSING

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you, gladden your hearts and scatter the darkness from before you: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## HYMN: ICH 119

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.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

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

By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

*Tune: CROSS OF JESUS John Stainer (1840-1901) from 'The Crucifixion'*

### **THE DISMISSAL**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Organ Voluntary:**

*Präludium c-moll, BWV 546, i, J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

*Organist: Matthew Owens, Director of Music  
Soloist: Caolan Keaveney*



## NOTICES



Under the Executive Restrictions announced on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November Belfast Cathedral remains **closed for all events and public worship** until **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**.

However, from Monday 30 November the cathedral will be open  
Monday to Friday between 1.00pm and 2.00pm  
for private prayer and reflection in the area set aside for those who wish to view the  
**Lives Reflected** screen,  
to remember a loved one or pray for those for whom they are concerned.  
Sanitising arrangements and social distancing will be observed.

### **Services Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December: Second Sunday of Advent**

11.00am Livestreamed Service of the Word

A Service of Evening Prayer for use at home will be available on the cathedral website

### **Christmas Carol Services at Belfast Cathedral**

*Due to the present restrictions we are unable to confirm details for this year's Cathedral Carol Services, planned for 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> December.*

***Confirmation of Carol Service times and booking arrangements will be posted on the Cathedral Website and Facebook pages in due course.***

This year, due to Covid restrictions,  
there will be **no** Christmas Eve Service of Midnight Holy Communion.

However, there will be a **Festival Eucharist at 11.00am on Christmas Morning.**

**The Preacher will be the Bishop of Connor, The Right Reverend George Davison.**

***Details for Seating at this Service will also be confirmed in due course, when further guidance has been received by the Dean from the Northern Ireland Executive.***