



**BELFAST
CATHEDRAL**

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 28 November 2021, 6.00 p.m.

WELCOME

Welcome to this Advent Carol Service at Belfast Cathedral, which marks the beginning of the church's year.

Face coverings **must be worn** when entering and exiting the building, and when singing the hymns. We request members of the congregation to wear face coverings throughout the service. Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens. Under government guidance for the purposes of keeping Contact Tracing Records it is essential that you complete the information in the insert provided. These will be retained for 21 days, after which they will be destroyed. Please keep your order of service as a memento. Thank you.

Note about the service

Due to ongoing restrictions there will be no procession of choir and clergy during the service. However, candles will be lit during the service from the West End to the East, to symbolize the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. This will be done during the singing of each of the Magnificat Antiphons (see note, below).

*There will be a retiring collection following the service
We are grateful for your contribution*

MAGNIFICAT ANTIPHONS

The front cover features a mediaeval illumination from a manuscript of the plainsong 'O' antiphons.

The antiphons, which are sung by the cathedral choir throughout tonight's service, refer to the seven antiphons that are recited before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer in the Octave before Christmas, 17th to 23rd December. The exact origin of the 'O Antiphons' is not known but they have been part of the liturgical tradition since the very early Church.

The importance of the 'O Antiphons' is twofold, each one highlights a title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

Please note that, during the service, there must be no recording of any kind, nor is photography permitted. Thank you.

Music before the service:

From *Cinq Méditations sur l'Apocalypse* by Jean Langlais (1907-91)

Movement 1: *Celui qui a des oreilles, qu'il écoute*

Movement 2: *Il était, Il est et Il vient*

Movement 4: *Oh oui, viens, Seigneur Jésus*

A note on the *Cinq Méditations sur l'Apocalypse* by Jean Langlais (1907-91)

Jean Langlais, one of the finest and most prolific French composers for organ, conceived these meditations over the course of thirty years, with the first performance given by the composer in Notre-Dame de Paris in 1974. The collection was one of only a few of his works that was not commissioned; this gave him considerably more creative freedom. The impetus for completing the work was his acute ill health in 1973. During the long period of recovery, he became obsessed with the Revelation of St John the Divine. Instead of portraying or summarising the narrative, Langlais decided to express through music specific visions that he himself received during his many re-readings of the text. These pieces are appropriate for the Advent Carol Services, four of which will be played tonight: movements 1, 2, and 4 before the service, and movement 5 at the end.

Movement 1: “*Celui qui a des oreilles, qu'il écoute*”: Revelation 2, 7, “*He that hath ears, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches*”. St John has been instructed to address the seven churches, which Langlais signifies by stating the plainsong *Te Deum* (on Tone IV) in the pedals seven times.

Movement 2: “*Il était, Il est et Il vient*”: Revelation 1, 4, “*He is, He was, and He is to come*”. Langlais portrays the concept of the eternity of Christ three times in this movement, with a held ‘F’ in the soprano. The movement is split into five sections, signifying Eternity, Christ crucified (through the plainsong, *Vexilla Regis*), Eternity, Christ glorified (through the plainsong, *Lauda Sion*), and Eternity.

Movement 4: “*Oh oui, viens, Seigneur Jésus*” from the final verse of Revelation, “*He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus*”. This movement is an introspective meditation in typical Langlais fashion.

Movement 5: *La Cinquième Trompette: The Fifth Trumpet*. This is a portrayal of Revelation 9, 1-11: “*And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*”

An extensive article about the work is available on this website:

<https://www.voxhumanajournal.com/roman2021.html>

Notes by Tristan Russcher, Associate Organist, Belfast Cathedral



ADVENT PROCESSION OF LIGHT



The service begins in near darkness

CHOIR: MATIN RESPONSORY

I look from afar:

And lo, I see the pow'r of God coming,
and a cloud cov'ring 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 ledest 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 pow'r of God coming,
and a cloud cov'ring 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?

*Text: Words translated from the First Responsory of Advent Sunday
in the Office of Matins (early mediaeval Roman rite)*

Music: Adapted from a Magnificat by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-94)

The Dean says the **ADVENT BIDDING PRAYER:**

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

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear
revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we
were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled
himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then celebrate this coming with our Advent carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice, and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of this and all nations, that they may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

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.

And when he comes may the Lord find us watching and waiting, now and at all times. **Amen.**



THE FOUR LAST THINGS (DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HELL, AND HEAVEN)



CHOIR 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.

READING: Isaiah 25, vv 6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

CHOIR: RORATE COELI DESUPER!

Rorate coeli desuper!
Heavens, distil your balmy show'rs;
For now is ris'n the bright Daystar,
From the rose Mary, flower of flowers:
The clear Sun, whom no cloud devours,
Surmounting Phoebus in the east,
Is comen of His heav'nly tow'rs,
Et nobis puer natus est.

Sinners be glad, and penance do,
And thank your Maker heartfully;
For He that ye might not come to,
To you is comen, fully humbly,
Your soulès with His blood to buy,
And loose you of the fiend's arrest,
And only of His own mercy;
Pro nobis puer natus est.

Celestial fowlèn in the air,
Sing with your notès upon the height,
In firthès and in forests fair
Be mirthful now at all your might;
For passèd is your dully night;
Aurora has the cloudès pierced,
The sun is ris'n with gladsome light,
Et nobis puer natus est.

Sing, heav'n imperial, most of height,
Regions of air make harmony,
All fish in flood and fowl of flight,
Be mirthful and make melody;
All *Gloria in excelsis* cry,
Heaven, earth, sea, man, bird and beast;
He that is crowned above the sky
Pro nobis puer natus est.

Words: William Dunbar (c. 1460-c. 1520)
Music: Scottish traditional, arranged Gary Davison (b. 1961),
Composer-in-Association to Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir

Please stand for the singing of the **HYMN**



All

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.



Choir only

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
who madest all in earth and sky
Creating man from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]

All

**O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed in awe
Gavest thy folk the ancient law.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]***

Choir only

O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell thy people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]

All

**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.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]***

Choir only

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]

All

**O come, Desire of Nations! show
Thy kingly reign on earth below;
Thou Corner-stone, uniting all,
Restore the ruin of our fall.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! [...]***

*Words: 18th century Latin, based on The Advent Antiphons from 9th century, tr. John M. Neale (1818-66)
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL Melody from a 15th century French Franciscan processional pub. by Thomas Helmore
(1811-90) in Hymnal Noted (1856), arranged by Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)*



THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Please sit. The Dean says:

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.

THE COLLECT OF ADVENT:

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 COMING OF THE KINGDOM



CHOIR 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.

READING: Jeremiah 23, vv 5-6

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

CHOIR: Canite tuba

Canite tuba in Sion, quia
prope est Domini.
Ecce veniet ad salvandum nos.
Erunt prava in directa, et
aspera in vias planas:
Veni, Domine, et noli tardare.
Alleluia.

*Blow the trumpet in Sion, for the day
of the Lord is nigh.
Lo, he comes to our salvation.
The crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways plain.
Come, Lord, and do not delay.
Alleluia.*

*Text: Joel 2, v 1; Isaiah 11, v 4
Music: Francisco Guerrero (1528-99)*



THE SIN OF ADAM REVERSED IN THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



CHOIR 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.

READING: Genesis 3, vv 1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate;

and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

CHOIR: Adam lay ybounden

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 moun singen
Deo gracias!

*Words: anonymous 15th Century
Music: Philip Stopford (b. 1977), formerly Director of Music at Belfast Cathedral*



THE WITNESS OF THE PROPHETS



CHOIR 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.

READING: Isaiah 2, vv 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

CHOIR: How lovely are the messengers

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
Throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

Words: Romans 10, v 15

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47), from the Oratorio Saint Paul



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS: WAITING AND EXPECTING



CHOIR ANTIPHON: O Oriens

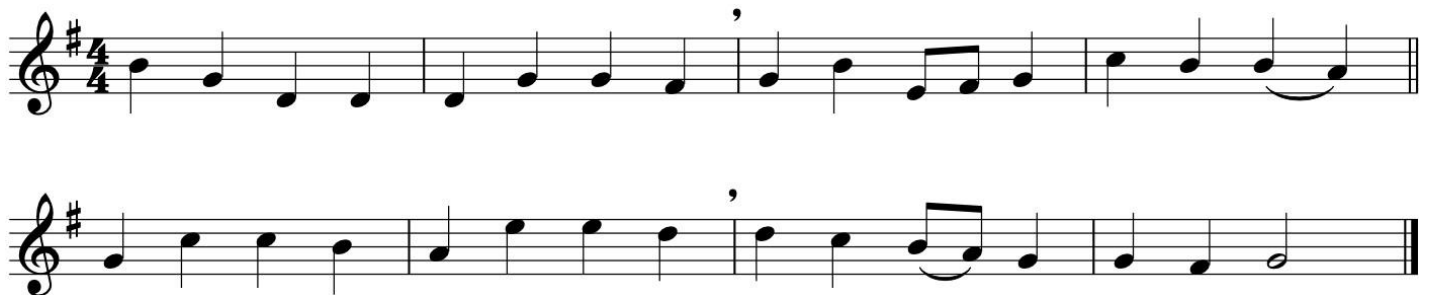
O Dayspring, Brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness: Come, and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness, and the shadow of death.

READING: Isaiah 35, vv 1-6, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

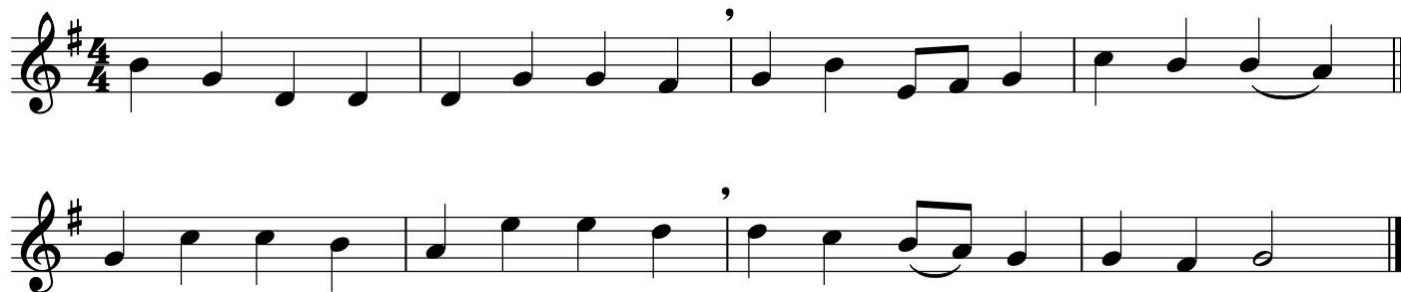
*Please stand to sing the **HYMN**:*



**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 Sir John Stainer (1840-1901), from 'The Crucifixion'*



JOHN THE BAPTIST



CHOIR ANTIPHON: O Rex Genitum:

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

READING: Luke 1: 57-66, 80

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.'

Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

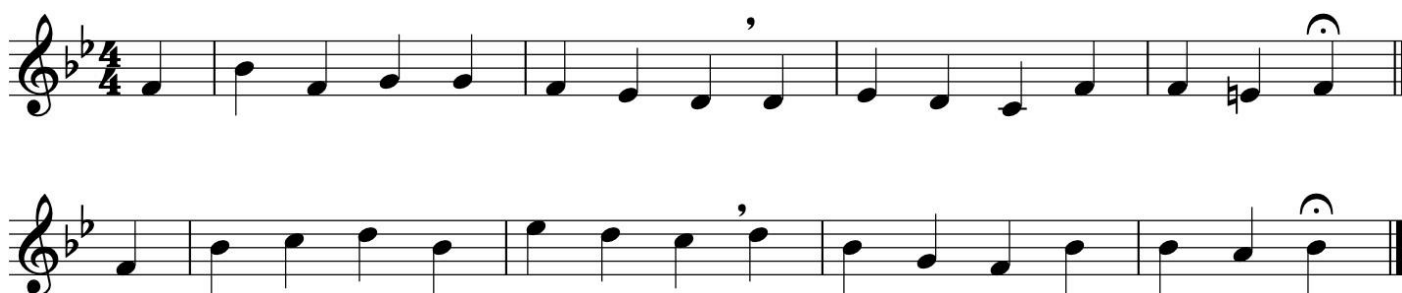
The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

CHOIR: This is the record of John

This is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.
Then said they unto him,
What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

Words: John I, v 19
Music: Grayston Ives (b. 1948)

Please stand to sing the **HYMN**:



**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.**

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749) tr. John Chandler (1808-76) based on Luke 3:1-18

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW adapted from Musikalisches Hand-Buch by William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)



MARY



CHOIR ANTIPHON: O virgo virginum

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

READING: Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

CHOIR: The Voice of the Angel Gabriel

When gentle Joseph wedded was
To Israel's Hebrew maid,
The angel Gabriel came from heaven
And to the virgin said:
'Hail, blessed Mary, full of grace,
The Lord remain on thee:
Thou shalt conceive and bear a son,
Our Saviour for to be':

*Then sing you all, both great and small,
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
We may rejoice to hear the voice
Of the angel Gabriel.*

Then Joseph thought to shun all shame
And Mary to forsake;
But God's dear angel in a dream
His mind did undertake:
'Fear not, old Joseph, she's thy wife,
She's still a spotless maid;
There's no conceit or sin at all
Against her can be laid':

Then sing you all....

So Mary and her husband kind
Together did remain,
Until the time of Jesus' birth,
As scripture doth make plain.
As mother, wife, and virtuous maid,
Our Saviour sweet conceived;
And in due time to bring us him,
With whom we all are saved.

Then sing you all....

*Text: Cornish traditional carol
Music: Sir Philip Ledger (1937-2012),
composed, in 2012, for Matthew Owens and Wells Cathedral Choir*



CONCLUSION



CHOIR 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.

*With the Cathedral filled with light, please stand to sing the **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,
we who set at nought 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:
O come quickly,
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

*Words: John Cennick (1718-55) and Charles Wesley (1707-88) based on Revelation 1:7
Tune: HELMSLEY Later form of a melody in John Wesley's Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed (1765)*

*Please remain standing for the **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.

*Please remain quiet during the **Organ Postlude** as the choir and clergy depart:*

La Cinquième Trompette, from *Cinq Méditations sur l'Apocalypse* by Jean Langlais (1907-91)

*Belfast Cathedral Choir was conducted by the Director of Music, Matthew Owens;
the organ was played by the Associate Organist, Tristan Russcher,
the harp by Gráinne Meyer, and percussion by India Chapman Webb and Elspeth Orr.*

*Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.
Belfast Cathedral text and music licence numbers CCL 8124, MRL 1049409
belfastcathedral.org*

CHRISTMAS AT BELFAST CATHEDRAL

Sunday 19 December

3.30pm Crib Service: a special service for children and their families, featuring Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir and Belfast Cathedral Songbirds

Thursday 23 December

7.30 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday 24 December, Christmas Eve

7.30 p.m. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

11.00 p.m. First Communion of Christmas

Preacher: Mrs Gillian McGaughey, Diocesan Reader

Saturday 25 December, Christmas Day

11.00 a.m. Christmas Day Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Right Reverend David McClay, Bishop of Down & Dromore

Sunday 26 December, St Stephen's Day

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Preacher: Reuben Johnston, Student Reader, CITI

*Please note that the cathedral will be **closed** from Monday 27 December and will reopen on Monday 3 January, 2022. Following the Eucharist on Christmas Day, the Cathedral Choir will return to sing services on Sunday 9 January.*

BELFAST CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS RECORDINGS

Some of the music from tonight's service (by Gary Davison, Philip Stopford, and Sir Philip Ledger) feature on the Cathedral Choir's new release, *A Belfast Christmas*, which features six world premiere recordings alongside more familiar Christmas works. Also on sale is *Christmas Bells – Organ Music from Belfast Cathedral*, played by Matthew Owens, with works from J.S. Bach through to the present day.

Copies of both discs are available to purchase after the service at the West End of the Cathedral, at the special price of £12 or 2 for £20.

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

We have a new stock of baubles featuring an image of the cathedral that will be the delight of your Christmas tree. Available in the shop, while stocks last!