



Lessons & Carols
for
Advent

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

9: 30 A.M. LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

Prelude

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

The lighting of the Advent Wreath

Matin Responsory —Jonathan Howell

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering 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 leadest 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. And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering 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?

Words: Matin Responsory of Advent Sunday

Music from a Magnificat by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina adapted by David Willcocks

Hymn

Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth

The congregation joins in at Stanza 4 with muted mics

Stanza 1 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.

Stanza 2 Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed,
the promised fruit to man displayed.

Stanza 3 The virgin womb that burden gained
with virgin honor all unstained;
the banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.

Stanza 4 Forth from his chamber goeth he,
that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one,
rejoicing now his course to run.

Stanza 5 From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds;
his course he runs to death and hell,
returning on God's throne to dwell.

Stanza 6 O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.

Stanza 7 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness breathe a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene,
and twilight never intervene.

Stanza 8 All laud to God the Father be,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Who with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for evermore.

Bidding Prayer

Officiant

My brothers and sisters, we gather to celebrate Advent: the time beyond time in which we wait in hope for the fullness of what we have seen in the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we wait in this hope, let us prepare ourselves by opening the Holy Scriptures to hear the prophets of Israel tell the news of God's coming in the Messiah — the anointed One — and his kingdom that shall never end.

As we wait in this hope, let us fill this place with our carols and hymns of praise, rejoicing in the promise that the suffering, pain and tears that remain will be transformed by God's judgement and mercy.

Let us pray for all people divided and enslaved by oppression and hatred. Let us pray for the suffering and the sick, the imprisoned and the lonely, that they may be freed from the bonds of discord and brought into the harmony of a world being made new.

As we wait in this hope, let us pray for peace among the nations, remembering all who work for peace, that they may be strengthened to stand against all that chains us to the realm of evil and darkness.

And finally, let us remember all those who have gone before us and now rest from their labors, that multitude which no one can number, and with whom in Christ Jesus we shall evermore be made one.

Filled with this hope and vision, let us gather our prayers and praises in the words our Lord has taught us:

Officiant & People

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 and ever. Amen.

I reading—Genesis 3: 1-15

Reader: A reading from Genesis

In the saga of the Garden of Eden we hear of that destructive pride and selfishness that afflict the human race.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

*The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green
The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree*

*His beauty doth all things excel
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
His beauty doth all things excel
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought
For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

II reading— Isaiah 6: 1-11a

Reader: A reading from Isaiah

God commissions Isaiah to be the prophet of the advent

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Carol— Jonathan Howell *'Twas in the year that King Uzziah Died*

Charles Wood

*'Twas in the year that King Uzziah died,
A vision by Isaiah was espied;
A lofty throne, the Lord was set thereon;
And with his glory all the temple shone.
Bright seraphim were standing round about
Six wings had every of that quire devout;
With twain he awesome veiled his face, and so
With twain he dreadful veiled his feet below.
With twain did he now hither, thither fly:
And thus aloud did one to other cry:
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth,
Full of his glory are earth and heaven, both.
And at their cry the lintels moved apace,
And clouds of incense filled the holy place.*

III reading—Isaiah 35: 1-10

Reader: A reading from Isaiah

The prophet Isaiah proclaims that God will come and save us

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry

76 (hymnal)

IV reading— Baruch 4: 36-5:9

Reader: A reading from Baruch

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Carol— Choir of All Saints Fulton

People Look East

Besancon Carol

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.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,

Guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the bird, 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.*

V reading— Luke 1: 26-38

Reader: A reading from Luke

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

59 (hymnal)

VI reading— Luke 1: 39-45

Reader: A reading from Luke

St. Luke tells of the coming birth of Jesus

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Carol— Choir of All Saints Fulton *King Jesus Hath a Garden*

Charles Wood

*King Jesus hath a garden, full of divers flowers,
Where I rejoice with great delight, all times and hours.
There naught is heard but Paradise bird, Harp, dulcimer, lute,
With cymbal, trump and tymbal, And the tender, soothing flute.
The Lily, white in blossom fair, is Chastity:
The Violet, with sweet perfume, Humility.
The bonny Damask-rose is known as Patience:
The blithe and thrifty Marygold, Obedience.
The Crown Imperial bloometh too in yonder place,
'Tis Charity, of stock divine, the flower of grace.
Yet, 'mid the brave, the bravest prize may claim
The Star of Bethlehem — Jesus — bless'd be his Name!
Ah! Jesu Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss complete,
Make thou my heart thy garden-plot, fair, trim and neat.*

VII reading— Revelation 21: 1-7

Reader: A reading from Revelation

Blessed John the Devine gives us a vision of the advent of Christ at the fulfillment of time

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Carol— Choir of All Saints Fulton

My Lord What a Morning

Spiritual

*My Lord, what a morning!
My Lord, what a morning!
O my Lord, what a morning!
When the stars begin to fall.*

*You will hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.
You will hear the sinner cry,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.*

*You will hear the Christian shout,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall.*

Officiant: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed.

People: *Tomorrow go forth and the Lord will be with you.*

Officiant: Stand still, and you shall see the salvation of the Lord

People: *Tomorrow go forth and the Lord will be with you.*

Officiant: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: *Tomorrow go forth and the Lord will be with you.*

Officiant: We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord.

People: *In the midst of your temple.*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Merciful God, who 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 greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

57 (hymnal)

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Postlude on *Prepare the way O Zion*



GRACE'S MISSION STATEMENT

*To be a visible sign of Christ's love,
seeking and serving Christ in all persons.*

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