



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE 2021



A Service of Readings and Music

SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2021
6PM

Welcome to St. Mary's for our Advent Carol Service

Tonight we begin the season of Advent, a time of preparation, waiting and watching for the coming of Jesus: The Incarnation. We hope that this evening's offering of music, hymns and readings will be an inspiration to reflect on our own hopes, fears and concerns as we pray for ourselves, our neighbours and the world we live in. Tonight's theme – the forerunner – focuses on the message of John the Baptist, and the theme of good news coming.

Music before the service

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 - Johann Sebastian Bach
Rorate Caeli – Jeanne Demessieux*

A dimming of the lights signifies the start of the service.

Choir Introit *Matin Responsory for Advent* Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

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.

*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?

Congregational Hymn (*verses 1 & 2 Choir*) ***Come, thou Redeemer of the Earth***

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

2. 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.

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

4. 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.

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

Welcome and Bidding Prayer Canon Simon Butler Vicar of St Mary's

Scripture Reading From the Book of Exodus Chapter 3, Verses 1-6 *Read by Sue Whitley*

Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed. ³ And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. ⁴ And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I. ⁵ And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground. ⁶ Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

Poem

Pentecost *by William Blake*

Unless the eye catch fire,
The God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire,
The God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire,

The God will not be named.
Unless the heart catch fire,
The God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catch fire,
The God will not be known.

Choir

Drop down, ye heavens, from above

Judith Weir

*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.*

Congregational Hymn

Wake, O wake!

1. Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
the watchmen all the air are filling,
arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,
'The hour has come!'
we hear them saying,
'where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
raise high your torches bright!'
Alleluia!
The wedding song swells loud and
strong: go forth and join the festal
throng.

2. Zion hears the watchmen shouting,

her heart leaps up with joy
undoubting,
she stands and waits with eager eyes;
see her Friend from heaven
descending,
adorned with truth and grace
unending!
Her light burns clear, her star doth
rise.

Now come, thou precious Crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son!
Alleluia!

Let us prepare to follow there,
where in thy supper we may share.

3. Every soul in thee rejoices;
from earth and from angelic voices
be glory given to thee alone!
Now the gates of pearl receive us,
thy presence never more shall leave us,
we stand with angels round thy throne.
Earth cannot give below
the bliss thou dost bestow.
Alleluia!
Grant us to raise, to length of days,
the triumph-chorus of thy praise.

Scripture Reading

The book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verses 1-11

Read by Kate Guest

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
² Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned:
for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
³ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be exalted,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low:
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough places plain:
⁵ and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see *it* together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken *it*.
⁶ The voice said, Cry.
And he said, What shall I cry?
All flesh *is* grass,
and all the goodliness thereof *is* as the flower of the field:
⁷ the grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it:
surely the people *is* grass.
⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of our God shall stand for ever.
⁹ O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up into the high mountain;
O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings,
lift up thy voice with strength;

lift *it* up, be not afraid;
say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God will come with strong *hand*,
and his arm shall rule for him:
behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him.
¹¹ He shall feed his flock like a shepherd:
he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
and carry *them* in his bosom,
and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Choir

Adam lay ybounden

Boris Ord

*Adam lay ybounden
Bounden in a bond
Four thousand winters
Thought he not too long
And all was for an apple
An apple that he took
As clerkes finden written in their
book*

*Nay had the apple taken been
The apple taken been
Nay had never our lady
A been heavenly queen
Blessed be the time
That apple taken was
Therefore we moun singen:
Deo gracias, deo gracias!*

Prose Reading

'Our God-haunted world' by Marilynne Robinson

The prophets tell us that we are contained in an ethical cosmos. Choices have consequences. These are not, in the overwhelming majority of cases, choices we make as individuals, though in the degree that we are all open to the suasions of fear and hatred, or of greed and oppression, we are guilty of the evils that follow from them. Then the recoil of divine justice is the effect of the very contempt for divine justice that implicates humankind in its own suffering.

But the God of Israel does not leave the matter there. His grace is the sacred difference between the grim story we could tell ourselves about the shadow war of human nature against everything that deserves the name wellbeing, and the story the prophet and the psalmist tell of the new heaven and new earth somehow forever implicit in this wronged and profoundly good Creation. The Lord is in our midst. Rejoice in the Lord always, reads the epistle for this week.

According to the Christian proclamation, God as man lived quietly in the world for more than thirty years before he called his first disciple, drawing no attention to himself or to his presence with us. His voice was not heard in the

street. We must assume that sunlight was no lovelier those thirty years, or time less inexorable. The Romans, who made synonyms of order and desolation, tramped the roads of his holy Judea. If we take it to be true that he walked in the cool of mornings and the breeze of evenings among Adam's children, who were at no special pains to hide their transgressions from him or to put a gloss of piety on the good they did, and that he saw them sometimes comfort the lame and welcome the outcast, as people will do, then surely he rejoiced in them, and in the unutterable good he intended for them. Still, every day was like any other day through those thirty years, miraculous and God-haunted as the world was in the beginning, is now, and always will be.

The Lord is near. We know not the day nor the hour of his coming because he is with us always, every day and every hour. We can rejoice in the Lord because he first rejoiced in us, and because he has put his mighty blessing on every gentleness we offer one another. Let our gentleness be known to everyone. If there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, let us think about these things. They are the joy of God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Congregational Hymn *Hark, thrilling voice is sounding*

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.

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

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.

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

Scripture Reading

From the Book of the Prophet Malachi, Chapter 3, Verses 1-5

Read by Stuart McAlpine

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

² But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: ³ and he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. ⁴ Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

⁵ And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts.

Choir

How beautiful upon the mountains

John Stainer

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings,
that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation;
that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

Congregational Hymn

On Jordan's bank

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings! | 3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay. |
| 2. Then cleansed be every breast from
sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest can come. | 4. To heal the sick stretch out thy
hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore
Earth's own true loveliness once more. |

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent doth thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.

Scripture Reading
St Paul's Letter to the Philippians Chapter 4
Verses 4-7

Read by Hezekiah Tete-Sakyi

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Poem

On the Parables of the Mustard Seed *by Denise Levertov*

Who ever saw the mustard-plant,
wayside weed or tended crop,
grow tall as a shrub, let alone a tree, a treeful
of shade and nests and songs?
Acres of yellow,
not a bird of the air in sight.

No, He who knew
the west wind brings
the rain, the south wind
thunder, who walked the field-paths
running His hand along wheatstems to glean
those intimate milky kernels, good
to break on the tongue,

was talking of miracle, the seed
within us, so small
we take it for worthless, a mustard-seed, dust,
nothing.

Glib generations mistake
the metaphor, not looking at fields and trees,
not noticing paradox. Mountains
remain unmoved.

Faith is rare, He must have been saying,
prodigious, unique —
one infinitesimal grain divided
like loaves and fishes,

as if from a mustard-seed
a great shade-tree grew. That rare,
that strange: the kingdom
a tree. The soul
a bird. A great concourse of birds
at home there, wings among yellow flowers.
The waiting
kingdom of faith, the seed
waiting to be sown.

Choir

This is the Record of John ***Orlando Gibbons***

*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.*

Scripture Reading

The Gospel According to St Luke, Chapter 1, Verses 5-25

Read by Evalyn Lee

⁵ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judæa, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁷ And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. ⁸ And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, ⁹ according to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. ¹⁴ And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

¹⁸ And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. ¹⁹ And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. ²⁰ And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

²¹ And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. ²³ And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

²⁴ And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵ Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

Reading

'For the Baptist' by William Drummond of Hawthornden

THE last and greatest Herald of Heaven's King,
Girt with rough skins, hies to the deserts wild,
Among that savage brood the woods forth bring,
Which he than man more harmless found and mild.
His food was locusts, and what young doth spring
With honey that from virgin hives distill'd;
Parch'd body, hollow eyes, some uncouth thing
Made him appear, long since from earth exiled.
There burst he forth: 'All ye, whose hopes rely
On God, with me amidst these deserts mourn;
Repent, repent, and from old errors turn!
-- Who listen'd to his voice, obey'd his cry?
Only the echoes, which he made relent,
Rung from their marble caves 'Repent!
Repent!'

Congregational Hymn

Sing we the praises of the great forerunner

Sing we the praises of the great forerunner
tell forth the mighty wonders of his story:
so may his Master cleanse our lips and make them
fit to extol him.

Lo, God's high herald, swift from heaven descending,
gives to thy father tidings of thy coming,
telling thy name and all the tale of marvels
that shall befall thee.

Oft had the prophets in the time before thee
spoken in vision of the Daystar's coming;
but when he came, 'twas thou that didst proclaim him
Saviour of all men.

Paulus Diaconus (730-799)

Scripture Reading

The Gospel According to St Luke, Chapter 1, Verses 57-80

Read by Matthew Guest

Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. ⁶⁰ And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. ⁶¹ And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. ⁶² And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. ⁶⁴ And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue *loosed*, and he spake, and praised God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judæa. ⁶⁶ And all they that heard *them* laid *them* up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel;
for he hath visited and redeemed his people,
⁶⁹ and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David;
⁷⁰ as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets,
which have been since the world began:
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies,
and from the hand of all that hate us;
⁷² to perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers,
and to remember his holy covenant;
⁷³ the oath which he sware to our father Abraham,
⁷⁴ that he would grant unto us,
that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him,
all the days of our life.

⁷⁶ And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest:
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation unto his people
by the remission of their sins,
⁷⁸ through the tender mercy of our God;
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,
⁷⁹ to give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

⁸⁰ And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

Poem

St John's Eve *by Malcolm Guite*

Midsummer night, and bonfires on the hill
Burn for the man who makes way for the Light:
 'He must increase and I diminish still,
 Until his sun illuminates my night.'
So John the Baptist pioneers our path,
Unfolds the essence of the life of prayer,
Unlatches the last doorway into faith,
And makes one inner space an everywhere.
Least of the new and greatest of the old,
Orpheus on the threshold with his lyre,
He sets himself aside, and cries "Behold
The One who stands amongst you comes with fire!"
So keep his fires burning through this night,
Beacons and gateways for the child of light.

Congregational Hymn

Lo he comes

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;
those who set at naught 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,
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

The Blessing

Closing Voluntary

Fantasia in G minor, BWV 642 by Johann Sebastian Bach

Giving to St Mary's

Online via this link or the QR code below: <https://bit.ly/SMBRegular2021>



Via the Contactless Giving Machine available at the back of the church.

Via the Yellow Gift Aid Envelope Please complete all the details on the envelope.

Via the Cash Collection Plate as you leave.

You can also set up a Standing Order. Our bank details are: Battersea Parish Church PCC, Sort Code 502101, Account Number: 82127468

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Scripture readings from the King James version of the Bible, Public Domain

The Parish Christmas Carol Service will be on Sunday 19th
December at 6pm. We invite you to bring contributions of
mince pies for the after-service refreshments.

The Week Ahead at St Mary's

Monday 29 th November	Morning Prayer at 9am
Tuesday 23 rd November	Holy Communion at 9am Clergy Team Meeting at 9.45am
Wednesday 24 th November	<i>Lectio Divina</i> at 9am (Zoom: The Office has details) St Mary's Choir Rehearsal at 7.30pm Advent Study Group in Church at 7.30pm
Thursday 25 th November	Holy Communion at 12.30pm Thursday Study Group at 1.30pm
Saturday 3 rd December	The Wedding of William Horstuis and Ella Dos Santos at 3.00pm

Next Sunday The Second Sunday of Advent

8.30am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30am	Family@Church: a short service for children & families
9.45am	Sunday Morning Advent Study Group
11.00am	Advent Parish Eucharist <i>Morning Preacher: Canon Simon Butler</i>
6.00pm	Advent Film Night

This Week's Notices

Family@Church: Christingle Service. Next Sunday's service will be a special Christingle Service, in aid of the work of the Children's Society. The service will begin shortly after 9.30am. More details here:

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/christingle/st-marys-parish-church-battersea>

Carols in the Square

St Mary's is leading this exciting event which will take place on Tuesday 7th December at 6:30 pm in Battersea Square.

We need help with the following please:

- Would John D Wood be able to put up an estate agent board in your front garden advertising the event?
- Would you be able to serve refreshments to children from local schools before the event? Or from about 5pm at St. Mary's? (the food is being made by Thomas's Battersea)
- Would you be able to help marshall children and their families to the square from St Mary's?
- Would you be able to hand out song booklets in the square?
- Would you be able to help with rubbish clearing afterwards?

All offers of help to Debbie Apostolides (dgha@sky.com).