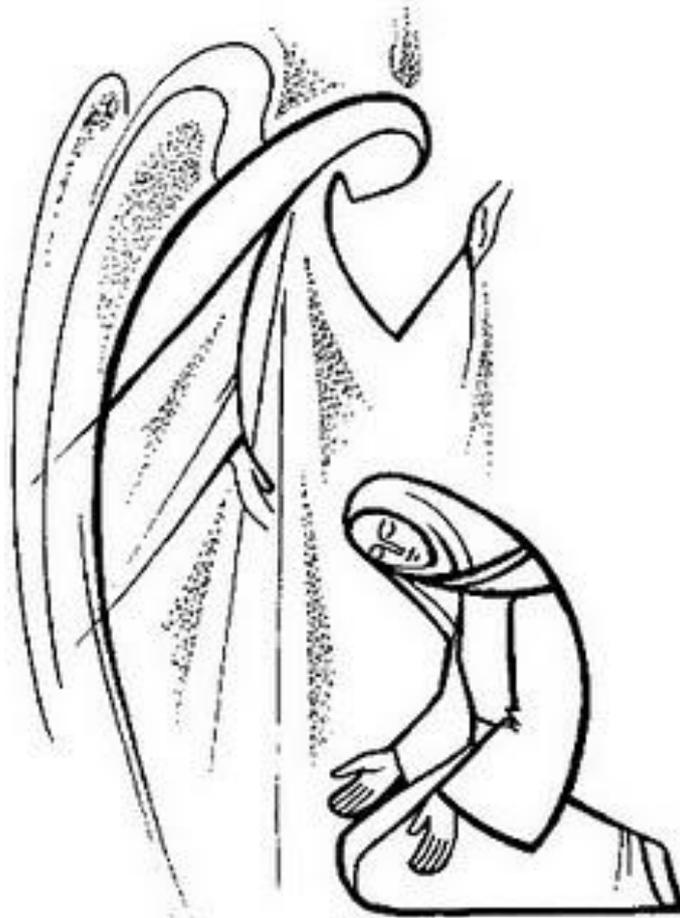




# St Lawrence Church

LECHLADE-ON-THAMES

## A Candlelit Service of Advent Carols and Readings



**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 5.00pm**

***Covid precautions:***

*Please wear a mask if you can, and keep your coat on as the church is ventilated*

**Organ music before the service:**

**Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland – JS Bach BWV 660**

### **The Advent Antiphons**

The service tonight uses the words of the Advent antiphons.

These refrains (also known as The Great O's) all begin 'O ...', and were sung before and after the Magnificat at Vespers, on the seven days preceding Christmas Eve.

They are addressed to God, calling for him to come as teacher and deliverer. Their importance is twofold: firstly each one is a title for the Messiah; secondly, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

It is not known when and by whom the antiphons were composed, but they were already in use by the eighth century.

The service starts in darkness and gradually moves into light. This symbolises the slow but sure triumph of the light, as the darkness of Advent gives way to the light of the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Together this evening, let us prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Advent, a time of patient waiting and joyful expectation.

## **Choir: Matin Responsary**

*Words: Mattins of the First Sunday in Advent in the Sarum Breviary  
Music: G P da Palestrina (1525–94)*

## **Bidding Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **First Reading (O Sapientia) – Proverbs 2:6-8**

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching  
from one end to the other mightily, and sweetly ordering all things:  
**Come and teach us the way of understanding.**

## **Choir: Creator of the stars of night**

*Words: From the Latin, translated J Neale (1818-66) and Editors  
Music: Conditor Alme, Mode iv*

### **Second Reading (O Adonai): Exodus 19:3-6**

O Lord of might, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning  
bush and gave him the law on Sinai:  
**Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.**

## **Hymn: On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry**

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!

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 may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward.  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay

4. To heal the sick stretch out thine  
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, forevermore.

## **Third Reading (O Radix Jesse) – Isaiah 11:1-10**

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;  
before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make  
their prayer:

**Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.**

## **Choir: People Look East**

*Words: Eleanor Farjeon*

*Music: Besançon Carol melody arr Malcolm Archer*

## **Fourth Reading (O Clavis David) – Isaiah 42:1-9**

O Key of David, and sceptre of the House of Israel;  
you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open:

**Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,  
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.**

## **Hymn – Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding**

1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day.'

2. Wakened by the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill 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.That when next he comes with glory,  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
with his mercy he may shield us,  
and with words of love draw near.

5.Honour, glory, might and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while eternal ages run.

### **Fifth Reading (O Oriens) – Isaiah 9:2-7**

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of  
righteousness:

**Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death.**

### **Hymn – Christ be our light**

1.Longing for light, we wait in  
darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to You.  
Make us Your own, Your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts.*  
*Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light!*  
*Shine in Your church gathered today.*

2.Longing for peace, our world is  
troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us,  
make us your living voice.  
*Christ, be our light....*

3.Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us Your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.  
*Christ, be our light!.....*

4.Longing for shelter, many are  
homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us Your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.  
*Christ, be our light!.....*

5.Many the gift, many the people  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another  
making Your kingdom come.  
*Christ, be our light!.....*

*Bernadette Farrell*

## Sixth Reading (O Rex Gentium) – Haggai 2:6-9

**O King of the Nations**, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one:

*Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.*

## Choir: No small wonder

*Words: Paul Wigmore*

*Music: Paul Edwards*

## Seventh Reading (O Emmanuel) – Matthew 1:18-23

**O Emmanuel**, our King and our lawgiver,  
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:

*Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

## Homily

### Responses

He that shall come will come and will not tarry:

**Now there shall be no more fear without our borders, forasmuch as he himself is our Saviour.**

He will tread down all our iniquities under his feet, and will cast away from us all our offences:

**Forasmuch as he himself is our Saviour.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

**Forasmuch as he himself is our Saviour.**

The Lord be with you:

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray...

We wait for thy loving kindness, O God:

**In the midst of thy temple.**

## Hymn – O come O come Emmanuel

*Choir:*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Men:*

2. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Ladies:*

3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and  
cheer  
our spirits by thine Advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*All:*

4. O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*All:*

O come, O come thou Lord of Might,  
who, to Thy tribes on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Words: Latin Advent Antiphons translated J M Neale  
Music: Melody adapted from a French Missal by Thomas Helmore*

## Blessing

**Organ voluntary: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme JS Bach BWV 645**

**You will be very welcome to any of our services this Christmas,  
please join us**

## **Christmas Services at St Lawrence Church - 2021**

5th December	Family Christingle Service*	4.00pm
9th December	Carols at The Trout Inn	7.30pm
12th December	Town Carols, Memorial Hall*	4.00pm
19th December	Nine Lessons & Carols	5.00pm
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Crib Service*</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>
Friday 24th	First Communion of Christmas (choir will sing carols from 11.15pm)	11.30pm
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>	<b>8.00am</b>
Wednesday 25th	Family Communion*	10.00am

\*Services especially suited to families

*All services will be subject to relevant Covid-19 guidelines.*

*We recommend you wear a mask if you can.*

*The Church will be ventilated so wrap up warm!*

*See our website for latest information.*

**At the heart  
of Christmas**

