



**EVENSONG**

**on**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday 6 December 2020**

## Welcome

A warm welcome to York Minster and to this service of Choral Evensong. Welcome if you are a regular worshipper and know the Minster well, and welcome if you are experiencing this building and this form of worship for the first time today.

Today's service will be live streamed from the Minster. We hope that this regular provision of choral worship will help us through the months ahead and the challenges of different restrictions due to the pandemic.

In this service we are immersed in the words of scripture, spoken and sung, and we are given time and space to lose ourselves in prayer and come closer to God.

# Order of Service

*A bell is rung and this prayer is sung:*

Peace be to this house ♦ And to all that dwell in it.  
This is the day which the Lord hath made ♦ We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, who knowest all hearts, be merciful to us sinners and graciously assist us in our ministry before thee, that so we may offer a service and sacrifice well-pleasing in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This is none other than the house of God ♦ This is the gate of heaven.

## Introit

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.

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.

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.

Angels, announce to man and beast  
Him who cometh from the East.  
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.

*Words* Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965) ♦ *Music* arranged by Barry Ferguson (b. 1942)

## Preces

O Lord, open thou our lips;  
**And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us;  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.  
Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

*Music* William Smith (1603–45)

## Psalm

I waited patiently for the Lord ♦ and he inclined unto me, and heard my calling.  
He brought me also out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay ♦ and set my  
feet upon the rock, and ordered my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth ♦ even a thanksgiving unto our God.  
Many shall see it, and fear ♦ and shall put their trust in the Lord.

Blessed is the man that hath set his hope in the Lord ♦ and turned not unto the  
proud, and to such as go about with lies.

O Lord my God, great are the wondrous works which thou hast done, like as  
be also thy thoughts which are to us-ward ♦ and yet there is no man that  
ordereth them unto thee ♦

If I should declare them, and speak of them ♦ they should be more than I am  
able to express.

Sacrifice and meat-offering thou wouldest not ♦ but mine ears hast thou opened.  
Burnt-offerings, and sacrifice for sin, hast thou not required ♦ then said I, Lo, I  
come,

In the volume of the book it is written of me, that I should fulfil thy will, O my  
God ♦ I am content to do it; yea, thy law is within my heart.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son ♦ and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be ♦ world without end. Amen.

PSALM 40.1–10

## First Lesson

A reading from the First Book of the Kings.

For three years Aram and Israel continued without war. But in the third year King Jehoshaphat of Judah came down to the king of Israel. The king of Israel said to his servants, 'Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, yet we are doing nothing to take it out of the hand of the king of Aram?' He said to Jehoshaphat, 'Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?' Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, 'I am as you are; my people are your people, my horses are your horses.'

But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, 'Inquire first for the word of the Lord.' Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred of them, and said to them, 'Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?' They said, 'Go up; for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.' But Jehoshaphat said, 'Is there no other prophet of the Lord here of whom we may inquire?' The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, 'There is still one other by whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies anything favourable about me, but only disaster.' Jehoshaphat said, 'Let the king not say such a thing.' Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, 'Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imlah.' Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing-floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron, and he said, 'Thus says the Lord: With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.' All the prophets were prophesying the same and saying, 'Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.'

The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, 'Look, the words of the prophets with one accord are favourable to the king; let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favourably.' But Micaiah said, 'As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak.'

When he had come to the king, the king said to him, 'Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?' He answered him, 'Go up and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.' But the king said to him, 'How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?' Then Micaiah said, 'I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, like sheep that have no shepherd; and the Lord said, "These have no master; let each one go home in peace."' The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat,

‘Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy anything favourable about me, but only disaster?’

Then Micaiah said, ‘Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, with all the host of heaven standing beside him to the right and to the left of him. And the Lord said, “Who will entice Ahab, so that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?” Then one said one thing, and another said another, until a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, “I will entice him.” “How?” the Lord asked him. He replied, “I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.” Then the Lord said, “You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do it.” So you see, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has decreed disaster for you.’

Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up to Micaiah, slapped him on the cheek, and said, ‘Which way did the spirit of the Lord pass from me to speak to you?’ Micaiah replied, ‘You will find out on that day when you go in to hide in an inner chamber.’ The king of Israel then ordered, ‘Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king’s son, and say, “Thus says the king: Put this fellow in prison, and feed him on reduced rations of bread and water until I come in peace.”’ Micaiah said, ‘If you return in peace, the Lord has not spoken by me.’ And he said, ‘Hear, you peoples, all of you!’

Here ends the first lesson.

1 KINGS 22.1-28

## Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud, in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy: hath holpen his servant Israel.  
As he promised to our forefathers: Abraham and his seed, for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*Words* Luke 1. 46–55 • *Music* NEW COLLEGE SERVICE, Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

## Second Lesson

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name’;

and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him’;

and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here ends the second lesson.

ROMANS 15. 4–13

## Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word,  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation: which thou hast prepared before the face  
of all people,

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*Words* Luke 2.29–32 ♦ *Music* NEW COLLEGE SERVICE, Herbert Howells

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God

**the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth:**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead,**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;**

**the holy catholic Church;**

**the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body;**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**



## The Lesser Litany, Responses and Collects

The Lord be with you;  
**and with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;  
**And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen;  
**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people;  
**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord;  
**Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us;  
**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Music* William Smith

## **Anthem**

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:  
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied,  
‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.’

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:  
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.

*Words* Advent Antiphon for 21 December ♦ *Music* James Macmillan (*b.* 1959)

## **Sermon**

The Revd Canon Maggie McLean (Missioner)

## **The Blessing**

## **Voluntary**

Fantasia in C minor, BWV 562

J S Bach

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