

ADVENT SERVICE: ADVENT ANTIPHONS

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, by your presence, light up the past
That we might learn from it with thankfulness
Light up the present,
that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future,
that we might prepare for it in hope.
As we watch and wait and pray,
May we always be ready to encounter the Lord,
Who is already and always with us.
Amen

ANTHEM: KING OF GLORY (IVES)

1st Bible reading: Ecclesiasticus 24:3; Wisdom 8:1

'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.'

"She stands strong from one end of the world to the
other. She is a marvellous governor over everything in
between."

THE FIRST ANTIPHON: O SAPIENTA (WISDOM)

**'O wisdom,
coming 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 prudence**

O SAPIENTA BY MALCOLM GUILTE.

2nd Bible reading: Exodus 3:2; 24:12

"The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of
fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush
was in flames, but it didn't burn up....

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the
mountain and wait there. I'll give you the stone tablets
with the instructions and the commandments that I've
written in order to teach them."

THE SECOND ANTIPHON: O ADONAI (LORD)

O Adonai, and leader of the house of Israel,

**Who appeared to Moses in the burning of the bush
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.'**

**3rd Bible reading Isaiah 11:10; 45:14; 52: 15; Romans
15:12**

"On that day, the root of Jesse will stand as a signal to
the peoples. The nations will seek him out, and his
dwelling will be glorious."

"The Lord says:

Egypt will grow weary, Cush will be sold,
and the tall Sabeans will cross over to you.
They will be yours, and after you they will go.
In chains they will come;
to you they will bow down.

They will plead with you:

"Truly God is with you;
there's no other, no other God.'"

"But he will astonish many nations. Kings will be
silenced because of him, because they will see what
they haven't seen before; what they haven't heard
before, they will ponder."

"And again, Isaiah says,

There will be a root of Jesse,
who will also rise to rule the Gentiles.
The Gentiles will place their hope in him."

THE THIRD ANTIPHON: O RADIX JESSE. (ROOT OF JESSE)

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

4th Bible reading: Isaiah 22:22; 42:7

"I will place the key to David's house on his shoulder;
what he opens no one will close,
and what he closes no one will open.
To open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon."

THE FOURTH ANTIPHON: O CLAVIS DAVID (KEY OF DAVID)

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.**

O CLAVIS DAVID: MALCOLM GUIE

LITURGY OF CONFESSION

Loving God, Maker of all,
Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of Life

Have mercy on us.

**We confess to our brokenness:
To the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others and the life of the world.
Amen.**

5th Bible reading: Malachi 4:2

“But the sun of righteousness will rise on those revering my name; healing will be in its wings.”

THE FIFTH ANTIPHON: O ORIENS (MORNING STAR)

**O Morning Star,
Splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE PROPHETS

We light this candle for all God’s prophets,
Confronting justice and restoring the dream
Of a world of freedom and peace.
**God, as we wait for your promise,
Give light, give hope.**

INTERCESSIONS

For those who are longing...
For those who are sick in heart, spirit, mind or body...
For those who are hungry for food, for justice...
For those who yearn for peace....
For those whose hearts are heavy with grief and loss....

We look for the rising of the sun of righteousness.

**May all for whom we have prayed know your healing
and receive fullness and wholeness of life. Amen**

6th Bible Readings: Isaiah 28:16; Ephesians 2:14

“Therefore, the Lord God says:
Look! I’m laying in Zion a stone,
a tested stone, a valuable cornerstone,
a sure foundation:
the one who trusts won’t tremble.”

“Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles
into one group. With his body, he broke down the
barrier of hatred that divided us.”

**THE SIXTH ANTIPHON: O REX GENTIUM (KING OF THE
NATIONS)**

**O King of the Nations, and their desire,
The cornerstone making both one:
Come and save the human race,
Which you fashioned from clay.**

O REX GENTIUM BY MALCOLM GUIE

7th Bible Reading: Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young
woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son,
and she will name him Immanuel.”

THE SEVENTH ANTIPHON: O EMMANUEL

**O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver,
The hope of the nations and their Saviour:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

O EMMANUEL BY MALCOLM GUIE

AN ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH

What do we celebrate this Advent?
**That God so loved the world
And, as has been promised,
Sent the Son to come among us,
To be one of us,
Flesh of our flesh,
Bone of our bone.**

What do we celebrate this Advent?

**We celebrate the coming of Jesus,
Who humbled himself, and became as a servant.
He lived among the poor and outcast,
With the traveller
And the lost
Where he will always be found.**

What do we celebrate this Advent?

**That Christ came for us
And for everyone.
He is the door
That offers welcome,
He is the door
That opens to endless possibilities.**

**He is the wonderful counsellor,
The Mighty God,
The Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.
He is Emmanuel-
God with us,
God for us,
God within us.**

HYMN: O COME O COME EMMANUEL

BLESSING

CLOSING RESPONSES

God has brought us out of darkness
To live in his marvellous light.
Go, and share the light of Christ.
Amen