

An Advent Evensong

All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, Edmonton

Sunday 5 December 2021 at 7pm

The Very Reverend Alexandra Meek

The Right Reverend Stephen London, officiants

The Cathedral Choir directed by Jeremy Spurgeon

Organ

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

Choir: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.

It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter

when half-spent was the night.

from 15th century German

Hymn Hail to the Lord's Anointed (101)

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!

Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,

to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever:
that name to us is Love.

James Montgomery

The Bidding Prayer

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us - how

that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our readings and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace in earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over. And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us and scatter the darkness from our path, that we may be awake and glad at his coming. **Amen.**

The Preces and Responses
page 20 in The Book of Common Prayer

William Smith

Choir: Psalm 50. 1-6

Chant: Conrad Eden

The Lord, even the most mighty God, hath spoken,
and called the world, from the rising of the sun unto the going
down thereof.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God hath shined forth.

Our God cometh, and keepeth not silence;

there goeth before him a consuming fire, and a mighty tempest is stirred up round about him.

He calleth to the heavens from above,
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

“Gather my saints together unto me:

those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.”

And the heavens declare his righteousness;

for God is judge himself.

Glorify 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.

Reading: The Book of Isaiah, chapter 40, verses 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

A voice says, ‘Cry out!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in

his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

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 saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth! *Isaiah 52. 7*

Hymn Prepare the Way, O Zion (102)

Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Saviour's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.

Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name. *Franz Mikael Franzen; tr. Charles Price*

Reading: The Gospel According to Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Choir: Magnificat

Carolus Andreas

Reading: The Gospel According to Mark, chapter 1, verses 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the

wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Choir: Nunc Dimittis

Carolus Andreas

The Apostles' Creed *page 22 in The Book of Common Prayer*

The Versicles and Responses

William Smith

The Collect for Advent

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on 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 Spirit, now and ever.
Amen.

Hymn Hark What a Sound



Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?

Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn, 'I come.'

This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.

Yea, through life, death, through sorrow and through sinning
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ. *Frederic W. H. Myers*

Choir: There is No Rose

John Joubert

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.*

*For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Resmiranda.
By that rose we may well see*

There be one God in Persons Three:

Pares forma.

Then leave we all this worldly mirth

And follow we this joyous birth:

Transeamus.

Words Medieval

Reading: Announcement *A poem by Luci Shaw*

Yes, we have seen the studies, sepia strokes
across yellowed parchment, the fine detail
of hand and breast and the fall of cloth -
Michaelangelo, Caravaggio, Titian, El Greco,
Rouault - each complex madonna positioned,
sketched, enlarged, each likeness plotted at last
on canvas, layered with pigment, like the final
draft of a poem after thirty-nine roughs.

But Mary, virgin, had no sittings, no chance
to pose her piety, no novitiate for body or
for heart. The moment was on her unaware:
the Angel in the room, the impossible demand,
the response without reflection. Only one
word of curiosity, echoing Zechariah's *How?*
Yet innocently voiced, without request for proof.
The teen head tilted, the hand
trembling a little at the throat, the candid
eyes, wide with acquiescence to shame and glory -
"Be it unto me as you have said."

Choir: Gabriel's Message *Old Basque Noel*

*The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All Hail," said he, "Thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!
"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,*

*Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,

"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.

"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy Name."

Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Sabine Baring-Gould

**Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (89)
verses 1-4, and 7**

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 you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the oath of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice!...

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!...

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice!...

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;

O bid our bitter conflict cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice!.... 9th century Latin; tr. John Mason Neale

A Meditation

Choir: O Thou the Central Orb Charles Wood

*O Thou the central orb of righteous love,
pure beam of the most high,
eternal light of this our wintry world,
thy radiance bright awakes new joy
in faith, hope soars above.*

*Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
as stars about thy throne,
set in the height of God's ordaining counsel,
as thy sight gives measured grace to each,
thy power to prove.*

*Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee,
transforming day to souls erewhile unclean,
now pure within. Amen.*

H.R.Bramley

An Advent Responsory

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors
To you be praise and glory for ever.

You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith.
To journey in the hope of promised fulfilment.

May we be obedient to your call
Ready and watchful to receive your Christ,

The Grace

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, as you look to our Lord's coming.

May you be untiring in love all the days of your life;

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Organ

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 *Johann Sebastian Bach*
Come, Saviour of the nations

Advent and Christmas Happenings

All Sunday services (8am, 9am, and 11am) have returned!

Darkest Night Service

December 21st at 7pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist and Carols

December 24th at 7pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist and Festive Celebration

December 24th at 11pm

Christmas Day Eucharist

December 25th at 10:30am

Boxing Day Sunday

Choral Eucharist at 11am

Office Holiday Hours

The Cathedral office will be closed from
December 24th to January 3rd.

All Saints' Anglican Cathedral

Bishop The Right Reverend Stephen London
Dean The Very Reverend Alexandra Meek
Vicar The Reverend Ruth Sesink Bott
Deacon The Reverend John Gee
Music Director and Organist Jeremy Spurgeon
Lay Reader in Charge Jay Adams
Rector's Warden Rob Reynolds
People's Warden Victoria Goodfellow Nicholls
Deputy People's Warden Ted Huck
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