

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity  
commonly called

**CHRIST CHURCH  
DUBLIN**



**THE ADVENT PROCESSION**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2023**

**17.00**

On the first Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves in a unique position, standing both at the beginning and at the end, precisely at the turning-point of the liturgical year. This peculiar experience of living within a paradox is a characteristic of the Christian faith. However, perhaps the greatest paradox of Advent is the tension between the joyous anticipation of the birth of Jesus and the inevitability of the cross.

In one sense, Advent does not end at Christmas. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion, the Atonement. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, of the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection. So, at the beginning of things, we think about the end of things.

This evening's readings reflect this emphasis on Christ's second coming and include themes of accountability, judgement, and the hope of eternal life. The course of the service traces the witness of the prophets, of John the Baptist and of Mary, all of whom point us towards the birth of Jesus.

Towards the end of the service, Charles Wesley's hymn sums up all that we have heard and reminds us of the paradox of our faith. In the words of T.S. Eliot,

**"What we call the beginning is often the end  
and to make an end is to make a beginning.  
The end is where we start from."**

*T.S. Eliot, Little Gidding.*

**Please stand for the hymns, antiphons and collects, sit for the readings and motets, and join confidently in all those parts of the service printed in bold type.**

*Please hold your candle upright to avoid dripping hot wax on yourself or on the tiled floor.*

## INTROIT

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 ledest Joseph like a sheep, tell us:  
Art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?  
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?

G P da Palestrina (c.1525–1594)

Matin Responsory for Advent Sunday

*please remain seated and keep silence*

## THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe,  
Eternal creator of day and night. Now, as darkness is falling,  
hear the prayer of your faithful people,  
wash away our transgressions, cleanse us by your refining fire,  
and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.  
May we live in watchfulness, as we wait for the coming of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, who shall judge the world and all its works.  
Rouse us from the sleep of sin and make us ready to enter your kingdom  
where songs of praise for ever sound.  
For you are the true light, who lightens everyone,  
and the new heavens and the new earth  
join to sing your praise,  
now and for evermore. Amen

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
A light no darkness can quench.

*Please stand*

## HYMN



Hills of the north, rejoice,  
Echoing songs arise,  
Hail with united voice  
Him who made earth and skies:  
He comes in righteousness and love,  
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,  
Sing to the listening earth,  
Carry on every breeze  
Hope of a world's new birth:  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
His word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,  
He is your brightest morn;  
Greet him with joyous eyes,  
Praise shall his path adorn:  
The God whom you have longed to know,  
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,  
Lands of the setting sun,  
Welcome the heavenly guest  
In whom the dawn has come:  
He brings a never-ending light,  
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,  
Songs be in every mouth,  
Lo, from the North they come,  
From East and West and South:  
In Jesus all shall find their rest,  
In him the sons of earth be blest.

Tune: Little Cornard  
M.F.E. Shaw (1875-1958)

Editors of the New English Hymnal, based on  
Charles E. Oakley (1832-1865)

*Please remain standing for 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 carols 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 on 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.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

*Please sit*

#### MOTET

Rorate coeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum:

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorum.

*let the earth open, and let it bring forth salvation.*

Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob.

*Thou, O Lord, hast given the earth thy blessing: thou hast turned the captivity of Jacob.*

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,; and to the Holy Ghost.*

sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper: et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

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

# THE ROOT OF JESSE

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 11: 1-5

Read by Joan Walker

*Please stand*

ANTIPHON – *O radix Jesse*

*O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum,*  
O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people  
*super quem continebunt reges os suum,*  
at whom kings shall shut their mouths  
*quem Gentes deprecabuntur: veni*  
to whom the Gentiles shall seek  
*ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.*  
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

COLLECT

O Lord, you have set before us the great hope  
that your kingdom shall come on earth,  
and have taught us to pray for its coming:  
give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning,  
and to work for the perfect day  
when your will shall be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
**Amen.**

*Please sit*

Motet

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen aus einer Wurzel zart,  
*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!*  
als uns die Alten sungen, von Jesse kam die Art  
*Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.*  
und hat ein Blümlein bracht  
*It came, a floweret bright,*  
mitten im kalten Winter, wohl zu der halben Nacht.  
*Amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*

Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

15<sup>th</sup> century German carol

*Please stand*

## HYMN



**Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew.  
Come to make all things new;  
Bear his People's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?*

**God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
Born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?*

**Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
She believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid;  
Till the time expected  
Nurtured and protected.**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, When he comes,  
Who will make him welcome?*

**Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlehem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome*

# LOOKING FOR THE LIGHT

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5 : 1-11

Read by Jim Loughran

ANTIPHON - *O Clavis David*

*Please stand*

*O Clavis David et sceptrum domus Israel*

O Key of David and Sceptre of the house of Israel

*qui aperis, et nemo claudit claudis, et nemo aperit: veni*

that openest, and no man shutteth and shuttest, and no man openeth

*et educ vinctum de domo carceris*

come and bring the prisoner out of the prison house

*sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.*

and him that sittest in darkness, and the shadow of death

COLLECT

Lord our God,

on the first day of creation

you made the light that scatters all darkness.

Let Christ, the light of lights,

hidden from all eternity,

shine at last on your people

and free us from the darkness of sin.

Fill our lives with joy

as we go out to welcome your Son at his coming.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

*Please sit*

MOTET

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'

James MacMillan (b.1959)

Antiphon for 21 December



# THE WITNESS OF THE PROPHETS

## THE THIRD READING

Malachi 4

Read by David Wynne

ANTIPHON - *O Adonai*

*Please stand*

*O Adonai et Dux domus Israel*

O Adonai, and leader of the house of Israel,

*qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti et ei in Sina legem dedisti*

who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law in Sinai

*veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento*

come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

## COLLECT

Stir up your power, Lord,  
and with great might come among us;  
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,  
let your bountiful grace speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## MOTET

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

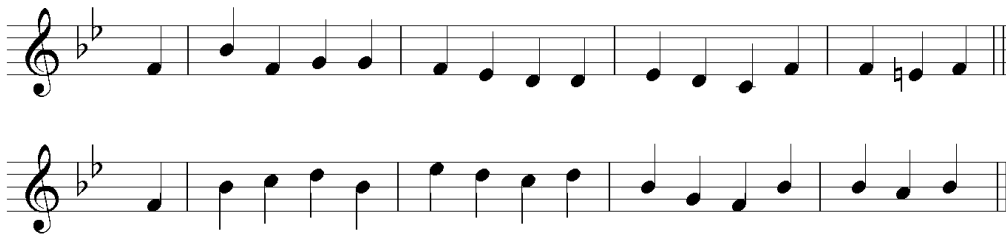
For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Divine Hymns and Spiritual Songs, New Hampshire, 1784

*Please stand*

## HYMN



On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come then and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without thy grace our souls must fade,  
And wither like a flower decayed.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast;  
And furnished for so great a guest;  
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,  
And make us rise to fall no more;  
Once more upon thy people shine,  
And fill the world with love divine

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

Tune: Winchester New  
Wittwe's *Musicalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

Charles Coffin (1676–1749)  
trans. J. Chandler (1806–76)

*Please sit*

## JOHN THE BAPTIST

### THE FOURTH READING

Malachi 3:1-6

Read by Peter Gaughan

*Please stand*

ANTIPHON—*O sapientia*

*O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti*

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the most High,  
*attingens a fine usque ad finem fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia:*

and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things:  
*veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.*

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
whose servant and prophet John the Baptist  
bore witness to the truth as a burning and shining lamp:  
Lead us to bear witness to your Son,  
who is the eternal light and truth,  
and lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

*Please sit*

## MOTET

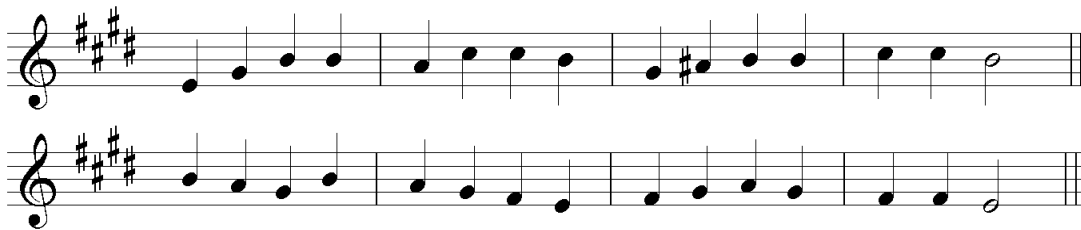
This is the record of John,  
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,  
Who art thou?  
And he confessed, and denied not;  
and said plainly: I am not the Christ.  
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?  
And he said, I am not.  
Art thou the prophet?  
And 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.

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

St John I

*Please stand*

## HYMN



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!'

Wakened by the solemn warning,  
Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

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;

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.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the everlasting Spirit,  
While eternal ages run. Amen.

Tune: Merton William Monk (1823-1889)

Latin, 6th century, trans. Edward Caswall (1814-78)

*Please sit*

# THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOUR

## THE FIFTH READING

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

Read by Carol Cassey

ANTIPHON – *O Emmanuel*

*Please stand*

*O Emmanuel,  
O Emmanuel;  
Rex et legifer noster,  
our King and Lawgiver,  
expectatio gentium, et Salvator earum:  
the Desire of all nations, and their Salvation:  
veni ad salvandum nos Domine Deus noster.  
Come and save us O Lord, our God.*

## COLLECT

God of tender compassion and mercy,  
whose Son is the morning star and the sun of righteousness;  
let him shine in the darkness and shadows of this world,  
that we may serve you in freedom and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

## Motet

Nova! Nova! 'Ave' fit ex 'Eva'.  
Gabriel of high degree,  
he came down from Trinity to Nazareth in Galilee.  
He met a maiden in a place,  
he kneeled down afore her face, and said:  
'Hail, Mary, full of grace!'  
When the maid heard tell of this  
She was full sore abashed I-wys,  
and wened that she had done amiss.  
Then said the angel:  
'Dread not you; you shall conceive in all virtue a child whose name shall be Jesu'.  
'It is not yet six months agone since Elizabeth conceived John,  
as it was prophesied before.  
Then said the maiden verily: 'I am your servant right truly. Ecce ancilla Domini'.  
Grayston Ives (b.1948) 15<sup>th</sup> cent. English

*Please sit*

# MARY'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL

THE SIXTH READING

Luke 1:39-46

Read by Michael Denton

## THE 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 with end. Amen.

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611) Octavi toni

## THE PRAYERS

Almighty God, who by your grace called the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and opened for all the door  
of infinite mercy and eternal light:  
Fill us with your grace,  
that, through our obedience and faith,  
the world may rejoice in your mercy  
and walk in your light;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Blessed Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.  
Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the Light who is coming into the world.

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary your mother and ours:  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children who long for your coming.

*Please stand*

HYMN



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 nought and sold him,  
Pierced, and nailed him to the Tree,  
Deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.

*Choir only*  
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!  
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come.

Tune: Helmsley, adapted by Thomas Olivers (1725-99)  
arr. Paul Plummer

John Cennick (1718-55)  
Charles Wesley (1707-88)

*Please keep silence and remain standing*

# THE FOUR LAST THINGS

THE SEVENTH READING

Revelation 22 : 1-7

Read by The Dean

Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace:

**that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people who trust in your love.

**By your coming, raise us to the joy of your kingdom,  
where you live and reign, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit come down upon you and on those for whom you have prayed, this night and always. **Amen.**

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

*Please remain standing for the exit of the choir and clergy  
and sit for the*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*If you need to leave during the voluntary, please return your candle to the desk and exit quietly.*

*To learn more about the cathedral, and its services and events,  
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*To use the induction loop system provided  
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## Advent and Christmas at the Cathedral

December 2023

- 2 Aidlink concert - *sold out*
- 3 Advent Procession 17:00
- 7 Shoppers Carols 13:30 Belvedere College
- 8 Christmas wreath workshop
- 9 Christmas wreath workshop
- 9 New Dublin Voices concert 20.00
- 10 Park Singers Concert 20.00
- 11 Shoppers Carols 13:30 Eureka Kells
- 12 Peata Carol service 13:15
- 13 O Holy Night concert - *sold out*
- 14 O Holy Night concert - *sold out*
- 15 Shoppers Carols 13:30, Mount Sackville
- 15 Blue Christmas 17:00,
- 15 Chamber Choir concert 20.00
- 16 Christmas organ concert 13.30
- 16 Chorister for a day workshop 15.00
- 16 Mornington Singers Concert 20.00
- 17 Community Chorus concert, 20.00 free admission
- 18 Focus Ireland concert 20.00
- 19 Shoppers Carols 13:30 Mount Carmel
- 19 Focus Ireland concert 20.00
- 21 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 18.00
- 24 Festal Eucharist for Christmas Eve 23:00
- 25 Festal Eucharist for Christmas Day 11:00

*For more events, please visit [christchurchcathedral.ie](http://christchurchcathedral.ie)*