



The Annunciation by Fra Filippo Lippi, The National Gallery, London

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 28 November 2021, 4.00pm

With the
Square Mile Choral Scholars
Directed by Andrew Earis

Officiant
Revd Katherine Hedderly, Vicar

Organist
David Cook

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER
Shining Christ's light on Tower Hill since AD 675

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WELCOME

**to all who are joining us today, whether in church or online.
For those in church, please help us to 'pray safe' by following
our recommended Covid19 guidelines:**

- * We encourage you to use the NHS QR code for Test and Trace on entry.
- * Please continue to wear a face covering while you are in the church building unless you are exempt.
- * Hand sanitiser is provided for those who wish to use it, both on arrival and at the table at the front before receiving communion.
- * Please be mindful that some people may prefer to maintain social distancing while seated. For those who wish to do this, please use the pews in the North and South aisles as indicated.
- * Please wear a face covering for congregational singing.
- * We will be taking a collection during the service, and we encourage those who are UK tax payers to use one of the gift aid envelopes which are available in the pews. You can also make a debit/credit card donation to All Hallows by using the Tap to Donate machine at the back of the church, via the QR code on your phone, or on our website at:
www.ahbtt.org.uk/donate



Thank you.

Organ Voluntary

Reflections on an English Folk Tune - Douglas Bell

Welcome

Choir Introit

Matin Responsory - *Palestrina*

Please stand.

Hymn

**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.*

**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!...

**O come, thou day-spring,
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!...

**O come, thou key of David,
come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!...

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times did'st give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!...

Latin 13th century, translated by John M Neale (1818-1866) Tune: Veni Emmanuel

Please sit.

Introduction

As we enter, eager and expectant, into this solemn season of Advent and look forward to the revealing of God's glory among us in the flesh of the Christ child, let us renew in ourselves, the vision of God's holiness.

Let us call to mind our individual and corporate sins which frustrate God's redemptive purposes. Let us acknowledge with sorrow and penitence the injustice and evil which close the door to the reality of God's presence among us and hinder the advent of God's kingdom of truth and righteousness.

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

And let us in prayer, praise and song, give voice to the hope set forth in the Scriptures that the creator of the universe shall come among us with power and great glory to dwell with God's people and to make all things new.

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

As we prepare for that day to dawn, so we commend ourselves and the whole human family to God's grace and mercy.

All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Poem

O Emmanuel - *Malcolm Guite*

read by Dorothy Risley

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,

O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

First Reading

Genesis 8.6-12; 9.8-15a - A Covenant of Hope

read by David Risley

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.'

God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.'

Choir

The truth from above – trad. arr. Michael Cayton

Second Reading

Genesis 18.1-14a - *A Promise of Hope*

read by Anne Palmer

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on - since you have come to your servant.'

So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.'

Please stand.

Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Tune: Cross of Jesus

Please sit.

Third Reading

I Corinthians 2.9-13, 16 - *The Spirit of Hope*

read by Rachael Twomey

But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him' - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. 'For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ.

Choir

O thou that art the light – *Gabriel Jackson*

Fourth Reading

Isaiah 65.17-end - *A Vision of Hope*

read by Ajahn PUNCHIHEWA

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord - and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent - its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

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 longing earth be blest.**

Charles E Oakley (1832-1865), edited English Praise (1975) Tune: Little Cornard

Please sit.

Final Reading

Revelation 21.1-7 - The Hope of Heaven

read by Martin Carr

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

Prayers

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.**

Choir

In darkness held – *Richard Shephard*

Please stand.

Closing Responses

Now is the time to awake out of sleep
All **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,
All **for the night is far spent.**

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,
All **for the day is at hand.**

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and welcome his coming as he welcomes you
All **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

Final Hymn

*During the next hymn a collection will be taken in support of our parish overseas project, the **Ras Morbat Eye Clinic in Yemen**, which will go towards the purchase of a Haematology Analyser to help the clinic in its work of providing vital eye care for those in need. If you are a UK Tax Payer, you can increase the value of your gift by 25% by completing one of the Gift Aid envelopes which are available in the pews. Thank you.*

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train: Alleluya!
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, 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! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!**

Charles Wesley (1707-88) Tune: Helmsley

The Blessing

May God the Father who loved the world so much that he sent his son
give you grace to see the signs of his love. **Amen.**

May God the Son, the Word made flesh, who comes as redeemer and judge,
reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make you strong in faith, joyful in hope and
constant in love that you may be ready for Christ's coming. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary

Fantasia on "Veni Emmanuel" - Cuthbert Harris



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ALL HALLOWS

- Sunday 12 December, 4pm - A Festival of Lessons and Carols
- Thursday 16 December, 6.30pm - Carols by Candlelight
- Wednesday 22 December, 6pm - Taizé Prayer around the Crib
- Friday 24 December, 11.30pm - Midnight Mass by Candlelight
- Saturday 25 December, 11am - Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols

You are welcome to join us for any or all of these festive services.

THE TEAM AT ALL HALLOWS

Vicar:	The Rev'd Katherine Hedderly
Associate Vicar:	The Rev'd Sophia Acland
Licensed Lay Minister:	Martin Carr
Operations & Finance Manager:	Angie Poppitt
Education & History Officer:	Adey Grummet
Organist:	David Cook
Church Wardens:	Ken Marshall, Di Robertshaw

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER with St Dunstan's in the East

Byward Street, London EC3R 5BJ

Tel: 020 7481 2928 Email: parish@ahbtt.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1129137

www.ahbtt.org.uk



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