ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

29 November 2020

PETERHOUSE CHAPEL
ADVENT

Advent is the season in which Christians remember that, although Jesus Christ has won the decisive victory over sin and death, God’s loving purposes for humanity have not yet reached their completion. It is, therefore, a season in which we watch and wait for the unfolding of God’s plan, attentive to the signs of grace in our midst. It is also the time when we particularly pray for the coming of God’s Kingdom and for the peace and justice which acknowledge his sovereignty over human affairs.

We begin our service by reflecting on the fall of Adam and Eve from God’s grace. This is a symbolic tale, and expresses our awareness that all is not well with humanity, that our relationship with God is fitful and disordered, that we know what is good, yet frequently seem unable to do it. The prophet Isaiah then proclaims God’s promise to redeem the created order, bringing his people from darkness into light.

Our attention is next drawn back to the story of how our salvation was begun many centuries ago. From Mark’s Gospel we hear how John the Baptist announced Jesus Christ to be the one in whom God’s saving plan would come to fruition. From Luke’s Gospel we hear that Christ was none other than the Son of God, who took human nature upon him and initiated God’s kingly rule on earth.

Having recalled God’s saving actions in the past, we then look forward with confidence to the consummation of His redemptive plan in the future. A reading from Revelation offers us a vision of a world remade by God in which sadness and death are no more. The service then culminates with the parable of the sheep and the goats in which we are reminded that the judgement of Christ will be pronounced on all that we have done and failed to do, and that all evil will ultimately be excluded from God’s presence.

All the music in this service has been chosen to illuminate and expound the message of the scriptural texts. I hope that the whole service will speak to you God’s Word of judgement and hope, and challenge you to live by the standards of God’s Kingdom.
OFFICE HYMN

Creator alme siderum,  
Aeterna lux credentium,  
Jesu, Redemptor omnium,  
Intende votis supplicum.

Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people’s everlasting light,  
O Jesu, saviour of us all,  
Regard thy servants when they call.

Qui daemonis ne fraudibus  
Periret orbis, impetus  
Amoris actus, languidi  
Mundi medela factus es.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
Of all creation doomed to die,  
Didst come to save a ruined race  
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.

Commune qui mundi nefas  
Ut expiares, ad crucem  
E Virgines sacrario  
Intacta prodis victim.

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to evening-tide,  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
The Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

Virtus, honor, laus, gloria  
Deo Patri cum Filio,  
Sancto simul Paraclito,  
In saeculorum saecula. Amen.

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

Music: Plainsong, Mode iv

BIDDING PRAYER

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,  
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you:  
grace to you and peace.
We are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God’s kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his Kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope.

And as we seek to renew our allegiance to God’s loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death.

May God, of his grace and mercy, grant to all his people a new trust in his good providence and a new obedience to his sovereign word, for to him is most justly due all glory, honour, worship and praise, world without end. Amen.

Our Father,
which 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 them that 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.
HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!
Who madest all in earth and sky,
Creating man from dust and clay:
To us reveal salvation's way. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From Sinai's mountain, clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the ancient law. *Refrain*

O come, thou Root of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From those dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save. *Refrain*

O come, O come thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes on Sion's height
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

*Words: Cologne 1710, based on the ancient Advent Antiphons
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, adapted by Thomas Helmore (1811-90)*

*Please sit*
Genesis 3:1-19

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of
which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

CHOIR

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thoght he not too long;
And all was for an appil,
An appil that he tok,
As clerkes vinden
Wreten in here book.
Ne hadde the appil take ben,
The appil taken ben,
Ne hadde never our lady
A ben hevene quene.
Blessed be the time
That appil take was.
Therefore we moun singen
“Deo gracias.”

SECOND READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled
in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

**CHOIR**

Kindle a light to lighten the darkness,
Kindle a light each nation and race:
God in the poor is coming to meet us,
Kindle a light to shine on His face.

Kindle a light to lighten the darkness,
Kindle a light for all who despair:
God in the poor is coming to judge us,
Kindle a light with fasting and prayer.

Kindle a light to lighten the darkness,
Kindle a light in places of shame,
God in the poor is coming to heal us,
Kindle a light for justice and peace.

Christ is coming, Christ is coming
Coming in judgement, in truth and in grace:
Meet him and greet him, and share his embrace.

Words: Michael Forster (b.1946)
Music: Michael Fleming (1928-2006)
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.

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.

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.

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

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749), trans. John Chandler (1808-76)
Music: Winchester New, adapted from Musicalisches Hand-Buch (Hamburg, 1690)

Please sit

THIRD READING
Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judæa, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of
Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel’s hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; and preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

**CHOIR**

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 that 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 say’st thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.

*Words: John 1: 19-23*
*Music: Orlando Gibbons (bap.1583-1625)*

**Please stand**

**HYMN**

The Lord whom earth and sea and sky
Adore and praise and magnify,
Who o’er their threefold fabric reigns,
The Virgin’s spotless womb contains.

And he whose will is ever done
By moon and seas, by stars and sun,
Is borne upon a maiden’s breast,
Whom God’s foreseeing grace possessed.
O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore. Amen.

Words: Venantius Fortunatus (530-606), translated J.M. Neale (1818-66)
Music: Puer Nobis Nascitur, adapted Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Please sit

FOURTH READING
Luke 1:26-38

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.
CHOIR

I syng of a mayden
That is makeles;
Kyng of alle kynges
To here Sone sche ches.

He cam also stylle
There his moder was
As dew in Aprille
That fallyth on the gras;

He cam also stylle
To his moderes bowr
As dew in Aprille
That fallyth on the flower;

He cam also stylle
There his moder lay
As dew in Aprille
That fallyth on the spray;

Moder and maydyn
Was never non but she;
Wel may swych a lady
Godes moder be.

Words: Anon (15th Century)
Music: Lennox Berkeley (1903-89)

Please stand

HYMN

Hills of the North, rejoice;
River and mountain spring,
Hark to the advent voice;
Valley and lowland, sing;
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh;
He judgment brings and victory.
Isles of the southern seas,
Deep in your coral caves
Pent be each warring breeze,
Lulled be your restless waves:
He comes to reign with boundless sway,
And makes your wastes His great highway.

Shout, while ye journey home;
Songs be in every mouth;
Lo, from the North we come,
From East, and West, and South.
City of God, the bond are free,
We come to live and reign in thee!

Words: Based on C.E. Oakley (1832-65)
Music: LITTLE CORNARD, Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Please sit

FIFTH READING
Revelation 21: 1-7

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.
CHOIR

Peace be to you and grace from Him
Who freed us from our sin
Who loved us all, and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord
The Lord almighty God
Who was and is, and is to come
Sing holy, holy Lord.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon
For Christ is coming soon.

E’en so Lord Jesus quickly come
And night shall be no more
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun
For Christ will be their All!

Words: Revelation 22, adapted Ruth Manz
Music: Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Please stand

SIXTH READING
Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger,
and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Silence is held

PRAYERS

Please kneel or sit

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 for ever. Amen.
Oh Great and glorious God, holy and immortal, who searches out the policies of nations and tries the hearts of men; Come, we pray thee, in judgement, upon the nations of the world; come and bring to destruction all that is contrary to thy holy will for mankind, and cause the counsels of the wicked to perish. Come, O Lord, into our hearts, and root out from them all that thou seest, and we cannot see, to be unlike the Spirit of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Make us, we beseech thee, O Lord our God, watchful and heedful in awaiting the coming of thy Son Christ our Lord; that when he shall come and knock, he shall find us not sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in his praises; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand

HYMN

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;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree.
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
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!
Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)
Music: HELMSLEY, noted by T. Olivers (1725-99)

BLESSING
Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.