

# Pershore Abbey



## Advent Carol Service 2019

The King and his Kingdom



## Welcome to our Advent Carol Service.

The congregation is invited to stand for the carols and  
to sit for the choir pieces and readings.

A collection will be taken during the last carol.

Choir

Matins Responsory (Palestrina)

Carol

*(Veni Emmanuel)*

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:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery:

*(Cont.)*

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe:

*[John Mason Neale. 1818-1866]*

## Welcome and Bidding Prayer

**The First Reading**      Zechariah 9:9-10  
Rejoice greatly, your king comes to you

**Carol** *(Merton)*

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.

*[Edward Caswall, 1814-187]*

**The Second Reading** Jeremiah 23:5-6  
I will rise up for David a righteous branch

**Choir** People look East (Traditional French Carol)

**Carol** (Cross of Jesus)

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 every nation,  
joy of every 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 thy own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thy all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*[Charles Wesley, 1707-1788]*

### The Third Reading

Psalm 118:19-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness

### Carol

*(Bristol)*

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.

[Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751]

### The Fourth Reading

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

### Carol

*(Picardy)*

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,  
with a mingled hope and fear,  
faithful men and women praying,  
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:  
the Desire of all the nations —  
it is time he should appear!'

Then the Spirit of the Highest  
to a virgin meek came down,  
and he burdened her with blessing,  
and he pained her with renown;  
for she bore the Lord's anointed  
for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him  
since the ages first began,  
for in him was hid the secret  
which through all the ages ran —  
Son of Mary, Son of David,  
Son of God, and Son of Man.

[Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908]

**The Fifth Reading**

Isaiah 7:10-15

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son

**Choir**

The Angel Gabriel (Traditional Basque Carol)

**Carol**

*(Longing for Light)*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.

[Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957]

## **The Sixth Reading**

Romans 12:1-2; 13:11-14

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed

## **Carol**

*(Little Cornard)*

Hills of the North, rejoice,  
river and mountain-spring,  
hark to the advent voice;  
valley and lowland, sing.  
Christ 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:  
your seers have longed to know their Lord;  
to you he comes, the final word.

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 home,  
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 universe be blest.

[Editors of English Praise, 1975  
based on Charles Ernest Oakley, 1832-1865]

**The Seventh Reading** Matthew 25:1-13

Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour

**Choir**

O thou the central orb (C Wood)

## Carol

(Helmsley)

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia!  
Christ appears on earth to reign. (x 3)

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught 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:  
Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

[Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
and John Cennick, 1718-1755]

## Conclusion

Blessed be the Lord. the God of Israel,  
**who has come to his people and set them free.**

Hosanna to the Son of David.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

## Collect for Advent Sunday

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**

## Blessing

**Organ Voluntary Toccata & Fugue in g (D. Buxtehude)**

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