

St George's Anglican Church East Ivanhoe

Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Advent

30th November 2014 – 7pm



First Sunday *of* **Advent**

The season of advent is upon us. Make way for the coming of The Lord. In the early life of the fledging Christian community, the second coming or return of Christ in the foreseeable future was believed an urgent possibility. One needed to prepare one's self and get your act in order as we would say today. Some people still interpret the call to judgement as not far off and the texts for Advent maintain an urgent tone. Some view the threat of climate change, whether human made or not as a sign of the judgement of God brought about by our own stupid acts or lack of care of the creation.

The season of Advent in the Church's year is a time for reflection and preparation for the coming of the Lord, a reminder to us to always be ready and aware of the call of judgement, to prepare ourselves for the birth of the Christ Child at Christmas, the embodiment and proclamation of God's love and grace. Advent is more than shopping and parties although both have their place in our preparations. Faith embraces more than this. Faith is the grounding of our humanity-care for others and a stronger personal relationship with God. Faith is more than a deity that we shape in our own image, but rather one that is central to the life, death, ministry and resurrection of Jesus. It is a reminder that from God's love we are created and to God's love we return. To be a follower of Jesus means to be in the depths of human need, but also to be where the spirit is recreating and refreshing human life as God meant it to be. `

May it be so for all of us this Advent?

Ray

The Reverend Ray Cleary

Introit A tender shoot – Goldschmidt

Introit Hymn 192 Hark a herald voice is calling

**1 Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
waken children of the day!"**

**2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.**

**3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us meet him with repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven,**

**4 So, when love comes forth in judgment
debts and doubts and wrongs to clear,
faithful may he find his servants
watching till the dawn appear.**

Sentences Prayer book (APBA) p.3

General Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts
we have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone what we ought to have done,
and we have done what we ought not to have done.
Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us;
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant, most merciful Father, for his sake,**

**that we may live godly, righteous and sober lives
to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Preces and Responses Smith of Durham (choir)

Psalm 80 1-7, 17-19 (Choir)

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!
3 Restore us again O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your
countenance and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
7 Restore us again O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your
countenance and we shall be saved.
17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
18 Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
19 Restore us again O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your
countenance and we shall be saved.

First Lesson

Office Hymn 193 O come, O come Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

**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. *Refrain***

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory over the grave. *Refrain***

**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. *Refrain***
Anon., Latin c. 13th century

Magnificat Short Service in A flat – Gibbons

Second Lesson

Numc Dimittis Gibbons (choir)

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Preces and Responses Smith (choir)

Collects

Anthem O Lord the maker of all thing – Mundy (Choir)

Prayers APBA p.14

Hymn 200 Come thou long expected 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 forever
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 1707-88

Sermon

Closing prayers and benediction

Hymn 201 Lo! he comes

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in awesome majesty;
those 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 worshipers;
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;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly:
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.

Charles Wesley 1707-88

Postlude Largo from Sonata 5 in C BWV 529 – J.S. Bach