



GARROWBYBENEFICE

Advent Carol Service

Song: O nata lux de lumine (O light born of light) Thomas Tallis

All The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shone.

In this service we join with brothers and sisters throughout the world, and light candles to mark the signs that God has given to his people as we journey through Advent.

First candle: Abraham and Sarah to whom the promise was first given

We light our first candle to recall the men and women of faith in the Old Testament, to whom the promise would be given. Four thousand years before the birth of Christ, God told Abraham and Sarah that one of their descendants would destroy sin and death, rule the world and bless all nations.

We light the first candle

Let us pray:

God of Abraham and Sarah and all the patriarchs of old, we thank you for the promise you have given us. Help us, like Abraham, to listen to your word and put our trust in your promises. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem as our saviour and king, and who will return in his glory, Jesus Christ your Son.

All Amen.

Hymn: O Come O come Emmanuel

Second Candle: The prophets foretell the birth of Jesus

Reading: Isaiah 2 1-5

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth
instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against
nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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Song: Jesus Christ the apple tree

As we light our second candle we remember the prophets, who spoke of the
coming of Christ, of a Saviour who would be born, a King in the line of King
David. They told us he would rule the world with wisdom and establish His
kingdom of righteousness, justice and peace.

We light the second candle

Let us pray:

Father God we thank you for speaking to us through the prophets. Help us
to listen to your word and to seek your kingdom above all things. We ask
this in the name of the one to whom they pointed us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Hymn: Hills of the North Rejoice

Third Candle: John the Baptist who prepares the way

Reading: John 1 5-9

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that
God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we
have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and
do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in
the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus
his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we
deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he
who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.

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Song: This is the record of John by Orlando Gibbons

As we light our third candle, we recall that God called John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming Saviour and King. John denied his own comforts and gave up his life in obedience to his call. John preached that because God's ruler is coming, we should repent, turn back to God and show God's love to others.

We light the third candle

Let us pray:

Lord God, your witness John the Baptist prepared the way for your Son by calling people to turn to you. Help us to prepare ourselves to receive you again. Forgive us our love of things more than people, our wilful self-centeredness, our rebellion against you; and help us to live by putting our trust in you, today, tomorrow and always.

All Amen.

Hymn: On Jordan's Bank

Fourth Candle: Mary the Mother of Jesus

Reading: Revelation 21 22-27

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day - and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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Song: Mary had a baby arr. Archer

As we light the fourth candle we remember Mary. When the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would be the mother of the Saviour and King, she said "Yes". And so Christ was born in her, and she declared your praise with joy.

We light the fourth candle

Let us pray:

Thank you Father God, for the gift of your Saviour and King. Help us to be like Mary and to say “Yes” to you. We ask that through your Holy Spirit Christ would live in us, so that we may be filled with your peace, love and joy and declare your praises. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem.

All Amen

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Song: Masters in the Hall trad. English

We leave the final candle unlit. It is the sign that although when Christ was born in a stable 2000 years ago, He did bring God’s light into our dark world, and although he comes into hearts and minds that are open to receive Him today, yet we still wait for Him to come again.

Let us pray:

Thank you Father God for the gift of our Saviour and King. Help us to use this Advent to remember in prayer those whom we might meet along our way as we journey to Christmas. We thank you for Abraham and Sarah, the Prophets. John the Baptist and Mary. Help us, like them, to believe in your promises, to seek your kingdom, to repent of our sins, and to be so filled with your love that we rejoice in the life transforming hope of the return of the King.

All Amen

Blessing:

Lord Jesus, master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet places to hear your voice each day. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking light. To you we say “Come Lord Jesus” and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you this Advent and forever more.

All Amen.

Hymn: Lo He comes with cloud's descending