

Carol:

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 over 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.

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

Words: Latin, 12th century; trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1851

Final Blessing

Having prayed for God's light to shine from
within us,
let us go out into the world
and share the light of His love.
And the blessing



St Matthew's, Pentrich

Advent
Carol Service
2012



Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see
the salvation of our God.

Welcome

Said as a single candle is carried in to the church, which is otherwise in darkness, and placed at the front.

Our God is merciful and tender. He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us, and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the dark shadow of death, to guide our steps into the path of peace.

The leader lights their own candle from the one that was carried in, and passes the light to the congregation, who give the light to each other. As this happens the following hymn is sung.

Carol: *(tune Heathlands)*

Deep in darkness we begin,
dark outside and deep within.
Now ignite a single flame,
shadows form, let light remain.

*Flaming brightly, let love shine,
flaming out through space and time.*

As they gleaned the word of life,
narrative of love and strife,
people through each age have known
yet more light: God's glory shown.

John the Baptist spoke out loud,
challenged that discordant crowd,

called each one toward the light,
see it growing, gleaming bright.

Mary wondered at her lot,
blessed? Or cursed? Or loved? Or
not?

Angels came and glory shone
Feel the love, let light shine on

Look! a star is shining there
See the stable stark and bare.
Christmas dawns, all darkness gone!
Christ has come, the light shines on!

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Introduction

Reading: Genesis 3:1-13 & Genesis 6:5-6

Reflection I **The grief of God**

Carol Solo: **The Truth Sent from Above**

Prayer

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

From a Procession of Prayers used with kind permission of John Carden

Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiance divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Prayer

O God, to whom we always look,
lighten our hearts as the sun throws light
upon the dark bushes around us.
May we always reflect your radiance
So that those who have not known you
May see you in us. **Amen**

Prayers

Ending:

Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Ending with

The Collect

**O Christ the Light of the World,
We thank you that your light shines among us.
Draw us ever closer to you
So that free from sin
We may show forth the light
of your glory in the world. Amen**

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human: *Refrain*

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected, *Refrain*

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlehem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry! *Refrain*

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Reading Mark 13:32-37

Reflection Mark the Evangelist

Carol:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reflection 2 Resident of Jerusalem

Carol: (tune Nun Danket)

1. Christ is the world's true light,
Its Captain of salvation,
The Day-star clear and bright
Of every man and nation;
New life, new hope awakes,
Where'er men own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks,
And night is turned to day.

2. In Christ all races meet,
Their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete,
From sunrise to its setting:

When Christ is throned as Lord,
Men shall forsake their fear,
To ploughshare bear the sword,
To pruning-hook the spear.

3. One Lord, in one great Name
Unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame
That hinder to enthrone thee;
The world has waited long,
Has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong,
Come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

George Wallace Briggs

Advent Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

Reflection 3 Isaiah

Carol:

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

Charles Wesley

Prayer

Let us pray

A Traditional New Zealand version of the prayer Jesus taught his friends

**Eternal God,
Earth-maker, pain-bearer, life-giver,
Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.
In times of temptation and test,
strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure,
spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil,
free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power
that is love, now and for ever. Amen.**

Reading Luke 1:16-17, 76-79

Reflection 4 Zechariah

Carol

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him, on the mountains,
shall peace the herald go;
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

3. Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

4. O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
his changeless Name of love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Prayer

O God we are in great darkness
When we heard of Jesus we saw a light far off.
Do not let anything put out that light,
But lead us nearer to it. **Amen**

Reading Luke 1:26-38

Reflection 5

Mary

Carol: (Tune Personet Hodie)

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.