

Music – Geoff Glead

Call to worship “Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved”.

(Psalm 80)

HYMN: O come, O come Immanuel (From Darkness to Light – Salisbury Cathedral)

<p>O come, O come, Immanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.</p> <p>Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> <p><i>Latin, based on Antiphons from IX century</i></p>
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First Candle of Advent: One candle to remind us of the prophets, who believed in God during dark days, and looked forward to the coming of Christ.

Prayer Thanksgiving and Confession - Lord's Prayer

Poem – The Coming (Ronald Stuart Thomas)*

Read by Edith Watson

And God held in his hand
a small globe. Look, he said.
The son looked. Far off,
as through water, he saw
a scorched land of fierce
colour. The light burned
there; crusted buildings
cast their shadows; a bright
serpent, a river
uncoiled itself, radiant

with slime.
on a bare
hill a bare tree saddened
the sky. Many people
held out their thin arms
to it, as though waiting
for a vanished April
to return to is crossed
boughs. The son watched
them. Let me go there, he said.

- From “Frequencies of God”: Walking through Advent with R S Thomas, Canterbury Press

Bible Reading Isaiah 9

Read by David Leadbeater

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined...
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

HYMN: The Advent Carol (The Manchester Carols)

The snow had a story, down it fell, Told it to a drum who learned it well. The drum had a driving, forceful air, Sand the snow’s music, and it sang Prepare. <i>Prepare. Prepare. Prepare. Prepare.</i>	The moon has a story, like a spell, Told it to a lute who learned it well. The lute had a wishing, truthful air, Sang the moon’s music and it sang Prepare...
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<p>The wind had a story, blew pell mell, Told it to a pipe who learned it well. The pipe had a living, hopeful air, Sand the wind's music and it sang Prepare...</p>	<p>The star had a story, One Noel, Told it to a harp who learned it well. The harp had a giving, faithful air, Sang the star's music and it sang Prepare...</p>
<p>The ice had a story, true to tell, Told it to a horn who learned it well. The horn had a thriving, joyful air, Sang the ice music and it sang Prepare...</p>	<p><i>Carol Ann Duffy & Sasha Johnson Manning</i></p>

Bible Reading Micah 5

Read by Jenny Powley

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Reflection

Music: Geoff Gleed "Of the Father's Love Begotten" by Stanley Vann

Prayer Intercession

Led by Wally Knight

Poem: Come, God-with-us (Thom M Shuman)*

Read by Steve Brain

Come, God-with-us:
who braves our rejection and hurt,
who holds us in acceptance and love.

Come, God-for us:
who whispers
in our ears
that we –
each of us—
are beloved children.

Come, God-under us:
who cradles us in arms that never grow
weary;
whose lap has room enough
for all.

Come, God-over us:
who watches
in the long silence of the night,
that we might rest in peace.

Come, God-beside us:
 who steadies us
 when we falter,
 who lifts us up
 when we fall.

Come, God-behind-us:
 who picks up all the faded dreams
 we drop along the way
 and patchworks them into hope.

O Come, O Come, Immanuel:
 and we will rejoice for ever!

- From “Candles and Conifers”, ed Ruth Burgess. Wild Goose Publications, The Iona Community.

HYMN Lo, he comes with clouds descending (From Darkness to Light – Salisbury Cathedral)

<p>Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for favoured sinners slain; Thousand thousand saints attending, Swell the triumph of His train: Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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!</p> <p>Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the power and glory, Claim the kingdom for Thine own; Alleluia! Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!</p> <p><i>Ch Wesley-J Cennick</i></p>
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Blessing

We are looking for God in our world. May we see what God wants us to see.
 We are looking for God in our lives. May we be who God wants us to be
 And may God our Shepherd, Protector, Awakener and Holy Spirit bless us through these
 Advent days. AMEN

Music - Geoff Gleed: "Noel Suisse" by Louis D'Aquin