



MERTON COLLEGE

The Chapel of St Mary and St John

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
5.30pm Saturday 30 November
5.30pm Sunday 1 December

Welcome to Merton College Chapel and to this evening's Advent Carol Service. A particular welcome to members of the Friends of the Choir. The season of Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, when the first coming of Christ is celebrated, but it is also a time for directing our thoughts towards the end of time when Christ will come again in his glorious majesty.

This service begins in darkness and will proceed without announcement. As the procession enters the Chapel a light will be passed to the end of each row. **Please use your hand-held candle to light the candles on the stalls in front of you. Please do not touch the glass.** The hand-held candles are extinguished as we sit for the first reading.

During the hymn *Hills of the North Rejoice* there will be a collection: on Saturday, for the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust which works to promote awareness of mental health issues among young people; on Sunday, for OXPIP—the Oxford Parent Infant Project—which provides counselling, workshops, support and advice for local parents. Please give generously.

As we sing *O come, O come, Emmanuel*, please light your hand-held candle again. We turn to face the altar as the Gospel of the Annunciation is proclaimed. After the choir has sung *Ave Maria* by Parsons we follow them into the Ante-Chapel where we face the screen for the final collect and blessing.

Please be aware that the service on Sunday is livestreamed.

The recording will be published, transmitted or broadcast on YouTube and may be published in official University or College publications and in University or College publicity materials, including University-or College-affiliated websites and may be circulated to the press and other broadcast media and websites for publication, transmission or broadcast. If you do not wish to appear in the Livestream, please speak to the Verger. **Visitors are welcome to take photos before and after the service. Filming and photography are not permitted during the service.**



Organ music before the service will include:

<i>Ave Maria d'Arcadelt</i>	Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
<i>Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
from <i>O Antiphon Sequence</i>	Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)
<i>O Sapientia</i>	
<i>O Radix Jesse</i>	
<i>O Rex Gentium</i>	
<i>O Emmanuel</i>	
<i>Lamento from Pièces de Fantaisie</i>	Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
<i>Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, Op. 122 No. 8</i>	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

INTROIT (*sung by the choir in the Ante-Chapel*)

Choir *O Radiant Dawn* James MacMillan (b. 1959)

*O Radiant Dawn,
Splendour of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
And the shadow of death.*

Isaiah had prophesied,
'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.'

Amen

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Genesis 1.1-5 is read as a light is brought into the Chapel.

*The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit
and the priest gives thanks to God for the light.*

The prayer concludes

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
both now and for evermore.

All **Amen.**

*All stand at the beginning of verse 3 of the following hymn
as the procession enters and the candles are lit.*

*Please use your hand-held candle to light the candles on the
stalls in front of you. Please do not touch the glass.*

Traditional Melody
adaped by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
arranged by David Willcocks
Descant by John Scott



(choir) Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall,
such birth befits the God of all.

(choir) Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
the promised fruit to man displayed.

Please stand.

(all) The virgin womb that burden gained
with virgin honour all unstained,
the banners there of virtue glow,
God in his temple dwells below.

(all) Forth from his chamber goeth he,
that royal home of purity,
a giant in twofold substance one,
rejoicing now his course to run.

(all) From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds,
his course he runs to death and hell
returning on God's throne to dwell.

(all) O equal to thy Father, thou!
gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.

(choir) Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness breathe a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene,
and twilight never intervene.

(all) O Jesu, Virgin born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

*St Ambrose (c.340–397)
tr. JM Neale (1818–66) and others*

Second Reading Ezekiel 47.4b-12
The prophet describes a vision of God's abundant life and healing power

Choir *Jesus Christ, the apple tree* Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Anon. trad.

All stand to sing

HIGHWOOD 11 10 11 10

R. R. Terry (1865-1938)

Descant A. Little



Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?

Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!

This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.

Yea through life, death, through sorrow
and through sinning,
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

FWH Meyers (1843-1901)

All sit.

Third Reading Luke 1.57-68
St Luke tells of the birth of St John the Baptist.

The birth of John, the forerunner of the Lord,
directs the hearts of the people to their promised joys.

To God the Father be glory; may there be equal honour for the Son; may the
worship of the Spirit be equal to that of the Father.

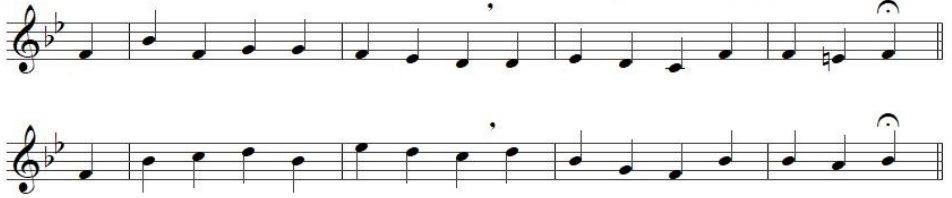
Peter Abelard (c. 1130) trans. T.E. Franklins (b. 1989)

Commissioned this year by Merton College, Oxford and sponsored by Nigel Hamway

All stand to sing

WINCHESTER NEW LM

Adapted from a chorale in
Musicalisches Hand-Buch Hamburg 1690



On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
and furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace our souls must fade,
and wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
and make us rise, to fall no more;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore.

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
tr. John Chandler (1808-76)

All sit.

Fourth Luke 3.1a, 2b-6
Reading *The proclamation of St John the Baptist.*

During the next hymn a collection will be taken for the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust (Saturday); Oxford Parent Infant Project (Sunday). Please give generously.

All stand to sing

LITTLE CORNARD 66 66 88

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)



Hills of the North, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies:
he 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:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

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 on,
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 sons of earth be blest.

*Editors of 'English Praise' (1975)
based on CE Oakley (1832-65)*

Choir *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day* James Burton (b. 1974)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance,
Sing O my love, O my love,
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance,
Thus was I knit to man's nature
To call my true love to my dance,
Sing O my love, O my love,
This have I done for my true love.

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance,
Sing O my love, O my love,
This have I done for my true love.

Then afterwards baptised I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance,
Sing O my love, O my love.

Into the desert I was led,
Where I fasted without substance;
The devil bade me make stones my bread,
To have me break my true love's dance.

For thirty pence Judas me sold,
His covetousness for to advance:
'Mark whom I kiss, the same do hold!'
The same is he shall lead the dance.
This have I done for my true love.

Before Pilate the Jews me brought,
Where Barabbas had deliverance;
They scourged me and set me at naught,
Judged me to die to lead the dance.
This have I done for my true love.

Then on the cross hanged I was,
Where a spear my heart did glance;
There issued forth both water and blood,
To call my true love to my dance.

Then down to hell I took my way
For my true love's deliverance,
And rose again on the third day
Up to my true love and the dance.
Sing O my love, O my love,
This have I done for my true love.

Then up to heaven I did ascend,
Where now I dwell in sure substance,
on the right hand of God,
That man may come into the general dance,
Sing O my love, O my love,
This have I done for my true love.

Traditional English Carol

All sit.

Fifth Isaiah 7.10-15
Reading *A virgin shall conceive and bear a son.*

Choir *There is no rose* John Joubert (1927-2019)

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res Miranda.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma.

Then leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

Anon (c.1450)

During the next hymn, please light your candle from the person's next to you. As the procession moves to the Sanctuary, all turn to face the altar from where the Gospel will be proclaimed.

All stand to sing

15th-century French melody
adapted and arranged by
Stephen Cleobury



O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone
far from the face of God's dear Son.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

(lower
voices)

O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from the dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell thy people save.

(upper
voices)

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.

(lower
voices)

O come, thou Lord of David's key!
The royal door fling wide and free:
safeguard for us the heavenward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.

(all)

O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from that high mountain clothed in awe
gavest thy folk the elder law.

Advent Antiphons, tr. TA Lacey (1853–1931)

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Facing the altar, all join in the Responsory.

All Now it is time to awake out of sleep,
for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,

All **for the night is far spent.**
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,

All **for the day is at hand.**
Put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and make no provisions for the flesh.

All **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

from Romans 13

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel Luke 1.26–38
The Annunciation

At the end
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All sit.

Choir

The Annunciation

Jonathan Harvey (1939–2012)

The angel and the girl are met,
Earth was the only meeting place.
For the embodied never yet
Travelled beyond the shore of space.
The eternal spirits in freedom go.

See, they have come together, see,
While the destroying minutes flow,
Each reflects the other's face
Till heaven in hers and earth in his
Shine steady there. He's come to her
From far beyond the furthest star,
Feathered through time. Immediacy
Of strangest strangeness is the bliss
That from their limbs all movement takes.
Yet the increasing rapture brings
So great a wonder that it makes
Each feather tremble on his wings.

Outside the window footsteps fall
Into the ordinary day
And with the sun along the wall
Pursue their unreturning way
Sound's perpetual roundabout
Rolls its numbered octaves out
And hoarsely grinds its battered tune.

But through the endless afternoon
These neither speak nor movement make,
But stare into their deepening trance
As if their gaze would never break.

Edwin Muir (1887–1959)

Choir

Ave Maria

Robert Parsons (1535–1571)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you,
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
Amen.

Luke 1.28 and 42

During the following hymns, the congregation follows the choir into the Ante-Chapel and turns to face the Screen.

Please follow the directions of the stewards.

All stand to sing

MOSCOW 664 66 64

Adapted from a tune by F. Giardini (1716-96)
in Madan's *Collection* (1769)
Descant Christopher Robinson (b. 1936)



Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

Blessed and holy three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide
let there be light!

John Marriott (1780–1825)

*A second hymn is sung as the procession into the Ante-Chapel
continues.*

HELMSLEY 87 87 47

18th-century melody
Descant by John Scott



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.

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!

The organist improvises before the last verse.

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own.
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Charles Wesley (1707–88)
and John Cennick (1718–55)*

DISMISSAL

*All remain standing and face the Screen as the priest prays the Collect
of Advent Sunday, to which all respond*

All **Amen.**

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The priest gives the blessing to which all respond

All **Amen.**

All Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God!

VOLUNTARY *Final (Symphony No. 2 Op. 20)*

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

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**RECORDINGS BY THE CHOIRS OF MERTON COLLEGE:
THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT!**

NEW RELEASE! Gabriel Jackson's The Christmas Story

An original and striking retelling of the Christmas Story for full choir and an ensemble of flute, percussion, strings, saxophone and three trombones, this new work by Gabriel Jackson conjures an extraordinary and captivating soundscape.

"excitingly modern and deeply sincere ... sit down and absorb its many moments of beauty" *Choir and Organ*

In the Stillness: A Merton Christmas

In the stillness of a midnight stable, a babe is born ... In the stillness of an Oxford chapel on a winter's afternoon, a girl's voice sings.

The newest star in Oxford's – and Delphian's – choral firmament, the **Girl Choristers of Merton College**, in their debut album recording supported by the Lower Voices of the Merton College Choir, tell once more in music from across the centuries the timeless Christmas story of light, hope and joy for a troubled world.

"this is one that in terms of interest and quality stands out from the crowd" *MusicWeb International*

"Prepare to be inspired and enchanted by exquisite singing from the heart ..." *Apple Music*

CDs priced at £14, purchase outside the Chapel after the service, from the Porters' Lodge or at

www.merton.ox.ac.uk/chapel-choir/recording. Friends of the Choir can purchase them at a reduced price from the Verger: (jennifer.crompton@merton.ox.ac.uk).

CHRISTMAS AT MERTON

5 December **Christmas Carol Service**
8.30pm Merton College Chapel

19 December **Christmas Carol Service**
6.00pm sung by the Choristers and Lower Voices