

# **Advent Processional Service**

**Advent Sunday  
27 November 2005  
5pm  
St. Peter's – Sowerby**

**St. Mary's Singers**

## **Processional Services**

PROCESSIONS are akin to religious drama: they re-enact events in the history of the world's creation and salvation.

ADVENT is a time of expectation: the word itself means 'coming'. It both recalls ancient Israel's hope for the advent of the Messiah, and also expresses the Christian hope for the fulfilment of God's Kingdom. It celebrates Christ's coming to lead the world from darkness to light.

The service is based on the Great Advent Antiphons. 'Antiphon' originally meant something sung alternately by two choirs: it came also to mean a sentence, appropriate to the season of the Church's year, sung before and after the psalms and canticles. The service begins in darkness, representing the darkness before creation as well as the darkness of sin. The procession begins at the west end. The candlelight, symbolizing Christ the true Light, moves from east (the altar, the direction of the dawn) to west; the procession then moves gradually from west to east, symbolizing our journey of faith towards Christ.

The words and music seek to enable us to worship God, who calls us to do his will and make the world what He created it to be – full of His Glory.

The music is sung by the St. Mary's Singers. The O Antiphons are sung to the setting by Arvo Pärt. All join in the prayers, and in the singing of hymns.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Before the Service, there is an introduction by the Minister. The lights are extinguished, and the Choir move to the west end of the Church. The Service begins as the Minister says the opening prayer, followed by the singing of the Advent Matin Responsory.*

God our Father, source of all beauty and inspiration, you have no need of our praise yet our desire to thank you is in itself your gift. You give us earthly music as the echo of the song of praise † which angels sing for ever in your presence. \* Grant us minds that are eager for the vision of your glory, and hearts that long for your beauty, that learning the song of the blessed here on earth, we may praise you forever in your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*When the Minister reaches the sanctuary, candles are lit as the Choir sings:*

### THE MATIN RESPONSORY

*All stand as the Minister enters the Church.*

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that  
should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,  
Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of  
Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art  
thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

*Words: Matins Responsory of Advent Sunday*

*Music adapted from a Fauxbourdon by Thomas Tallis.*

*The Minister says:*

#### THE BIDDING

Dear friends, in this season of Advent, let us hear how God promised to visit and redeem His people, and let us look forward to the fulfilment of all his purposes through Christ. Let us pray for the whole world, and especially for people who live in darkness, evil and fear; and let us re-affirm our determination to reflect in our own lives the light and love of God. We offer our prayers and praises in the words Jesus taught us, saying:

*All say:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from**

**evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Choir sings the First Advent Antiphon: O SAPIENTIA*

O Weisheit, hervorgegangen aus dem Munde des  
Höchsten, die Welt umspannst du von einem Ende zum  
andern, in Kraft und Milde ordnest du alles: O komm und  
offenbare uns der Weisheit und der Einsicht.

*O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High,  
and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly  
ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

**The First Reading:** Proverbs 8: 1-4 and 10-11  
*Divine Wisdom makes its appeal.*

*The Choir sings:*

NATIVITAS TUA

Natívitás tua, Dei Genitrix  
Virgo, gáudium annuntiávit  
universo mundo ; Ex te enim  
ortus est sol justítíæ, Christus  
Deus noster: Qui, solvens  
maledictiónem, dedit  
benedictiónem ; et confundens  
mortem,, donávit nobis vitam  
sempiternam. Benedicta tu in  
mulíeribus, et benedíctus  
fructus ventris tui. Ex te enim  
ortus est sol justítíæ, Christus  
Deus noster.

Thy Birth, O Virgin Mother of God,  
was a message of joy to the whole  
world, for out of thee rose the Sun  
of righteousness, even Christ our  
God: who hath taken away the  
curse and brought a blessing,  
confounded death, and given unto  
us everlasting life. Blessed art thou  
among women, and blessed is the  
Fruit of thy womb. For out of thee  
rose the Sun of righteousness, even  
Christ our God.

*Words from Magnificat Antiphon for Nativity of the BVM  
Music by Roland Mumford*

*The Choir sings the Second Advent Antiphon: O ADONAI*

O Adonai, der Herr und Führer des Hauses Israel, im flammenden Dornbusch bist du dem Mose erschienen und hast ihm auf dem Berg das Gesetz gegeben: O komm und befreie uns mit deinem starken Arm.

*O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the Law in Sinai: Come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.*

**The Second Reading:** Exodus 2:23b-3:6a

*Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush.*

**ALL SING THE HYMN:** *'Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown' (250).*

*The Choir sings the Third Advent Antiphon: O RADIX JESSE*

O Sproß aus Isais Wurzel, gesetzt zum Zeichen für die Völker, vor dir verstummen die Herrscher der Erde, O komm und errette uns, erhebedich säume nicht länger.

*O Root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the Gentiles shall seek: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.*

**The Third Reading:** Isaiah 11:1-4a and 10

*God's Spirit will be upon the One who is to come from the root of Jesse, that is, the royal house of David.*

*The Choir sings:*

## A SPOTLESS ROSE

A spotless Rose is blowing,  
Sprung from a tender root,  
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,  
Of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light  
Amid the cold, cold winter,  
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,  
Whereof Isaiah said,  
Is from its sweet root springing,  
In Mary, purest Maid;  
For, through our God's great love and might,  
The blessed Babe she bare us  
In a cold, cold winter's night.

*Music Herbert Howells*

*The Choir sings the Fourth Advent Antiphon: O CLAVIS DAVID*

O Schlüssel Davids, Zepter des Hauses Israel, du öffnest,  
und niemand kann schließen, du schließt, und keine  
Macht vermag zu öffnen : O komm und öffne den Kerker  
der Finsternis und die Fessel des Todes.

*O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest,  
and no man shutteth, and shuttest, and no man openeth: Come  
and bring the prisoner out of the prison-house, and him that  
sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.*

**The Fourth Reading:** Micah 4:1-5

*The promise of an age of peace.*

*All sing the Hymn: 'Hills of the North, rejoice!' (470)*

*The Choir sings the Fifth Advent Antiphon: O ORIENS*

O Morgenstern, Glanz des unversehrten Lichtes. Der  
Gerechtigkeit strahlende Sonne : O komm und erleuchte,  
die da setzen in Finsternis und im Schatten des Todes.  
*O Day-spring, Brightness of Light Everlasting, and Son of  
Righteousness: Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness  
and the shadow of death.*

**The Fifth Reading:** St. Luke 1:57-68

*The birth of John the Baptist, the great forerunner of Christ.*

*The Choir sings:*

**BENEDICTUS**

**BLESSED** be the Lord God of Israel : for he hath visited and redeemed  
his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of his  
servant David;  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets : which have been since  
the world began;  
That we should be saved from our enemies : and from the hand of all  
that hate us.

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers : and to remember  
his holy Covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham : that he  
would give us;  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies : might serve  
him without fear;  
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.  
And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest : for thou  
shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the remission of  
their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God : whereby the day-spring from on

high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death :  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without  
end. Amen.

*Music: Tomas Luis da Victoria*

*The Choir sings the Sixth Advent Antiphon: O REX  
GENTIUM*

O König aller Völker, ihre Erwartung und Sehnsucht,  
Schlußstein, der den Bau zusammenhält: O komm und  
errette den Menschen, den du aus Erde gebüdest!  
*O King of the nations, and their desire; the Corner-stone, who  
makest both one: Come and save mankind, whom thou formedst  
of clay.*

**The Sixth Reading: St. Mark 1:4-8**

*The testimony of John the Baptist to Jesus.*

*The Choir sings:*

## WACHET AUF

"Wachet auf," ruft uns die Stimme  
Der Wächter sehr hoch auf der Zinne,  
"Wach auf du Stadt Jerusalem!  
Mitternacht heißt diese Stunde!"  
Sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:  
"Wo seid ihr klugen Jungfrauen?  
Wohlauf, der Bräutigam kommt,  
Steht auf, die Lampen nehmt!  
Halleluja!  
Macht euch bereit zur Hochzeitsfreud;  
Ihr müsset ihm entgegengehen!"

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us,  
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:  
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"  
Midnight's peace their cry has broken,  
their urgent summons clearly spoken:  
"The time has come, O maidens wise!  
Rise up, and give us light;  
the Bridegroom is in sight.  
Alleluia!  
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,  
that you the wedding feast may share."

Zion hört die Wächter singen,  
Das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,  
Sie wachet und steht eilend auf.  
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,  
Von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig;  
Ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.  
Nun komm, du werthe Kron,  
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn!  
Hosianna!  
Wir folgen all zum Freudensaal  
Und halten mit das Abendmahl.

Zion hears the watchman singing;  
her heart with joyful hope is springing,  
she wakes and hurries through the night.  
Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious  
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:  
her star is risen, her light grows bright.  
Now come, most worthy Lord,  
God's Son, Incarnate Word,  
Alleluia!  
We follow all and heed your call  
to come into the banquet hall.

Gloria sei dir gesungen  
Mit Menschen- und mit Engelzungen,  
Mit Harfen und mit Zimbeln schön.  
Von zwölf Perlen sind die Tore  
An deiner Stadt, wir stehn im Chore  
Der Engel hoch um deinen Thron.  
Kein Aug hat je gespürt,  
Kein Ohr hat mehr gehört  
Solche Freude.  
Des jauchzen wir und singen dir  
Das Halleluja für und für.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;  
let saints and angels sing before you,  
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.  
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:  
through them we stream to join the immortals  
as we with joy your throne surround.  
No eye has known the sight,  
no ear heard such delight:  
Alleluia!  
Therefore we sing to greet our King;  
for ever let our praises ring.

*Music: J.S. Bach*

*The Choir sings the Seventh Advent Antiphon: O EMMANUEL*

O Immanuel, unser König und Lehrer, du Hoffnung und  
Heiland der Völker: O komm eile und schaffe uns Hilfe,  
du unser Herr und unser Gott.  
*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations,  
and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

**The Seventh Reading:** Mark 13:33-37  
*Christ exhorts his followers to be vigilant in prayer.*

*The Choir sings:*

A NEW SONG

O sing unto the Lord a new Song,  
Sing unto the Lord all the whole Earth.  
Sing unto the Lord and praise His Name,  
Be telling of His salvation from day to day.  
For He cometh to judge the Earth,  
And with righteousness to judge the world  
And the people with His Truth.

*Words: BCP, Psalm 96 vv. 1, 2, 13*

*Music: James MacMillan*

THE PRAYERS

THE ADVENT COLLECT

*All sing the Hymn: 'Lo! He comes with clouds descending'  
(28), during which a collection is taken.*

THE BLESSING

*The Minister and Choir recess, as the Advent Prose is sung:*

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour  
down righteousness.**

Be not very angry, O Lord, neither remember our iniquity for ever:  
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:  
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour  
down righteousness.**

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,  
and we all do fade as a leaf:  
our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;  
thou hast hid thy face from us:  
and has consumed us, because of our iniquities.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour  
down righteousness.**

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have  
chosen; that ye may know me and believe me:  
and there is nothing that can deliver out of my hand.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour  
down righteousness.**

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:  
fear not for I will save thee:  
for I am the Lord thy god, the holy one of Israel, thy Redeemer.

**Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour  
down righteousness.**

*Music: Rorate Cæli (Plainsong).*