

**Advent  
Processional  
Service**

**Advent Sunday  
3 December 2006  
5pm  
St. Peter's, Sowerby**

**St. Mary's Singers**



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

This 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.

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

The service begins in darkness, representing the darkness before creation as well as the darkness of sin. The procession begins at the west end of the Church. 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 choir of St Mary's Church, Cottonstones. The Antiphons are sung to a setting by the American composer Mark Steighner.

All join in the prayers, and in the singing of hymns throughout the service.

# Order of Service

*Before the service, there is an introduction by the Minister.  
The lights are extinguished, and the service begins as the  
Minister says the opening prayer.*

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.**

*All stand as the Choir moves to the west end of the Church.*

*The Choir sings:*

## *The Matin Responsory*

*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: The Matin Responsory | Music: Palestrina*

*The Minister says:*

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 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, 10-11*

*Divine Wisdom makes its appeal*

*The Choir sings:*

***The Coventry Carol***

*Lully, lulla, Thou little tiny Child: by, by, lully, lullay.*

*O sisters too, how may we do, for to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we sing by, by, lully, lullay.*

*Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day.  
His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.*

*That woe is me, poor Child for Thee! And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting neither say nor sing by, by, lully, lullay.*

*Words: 15<sup>th</sup> century Tailors' Pageant | Music: Kenneth Leighton*

*The Choir sings the second Advent Antiphon:*

***O Adonai***

*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 2:23-3:6*

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

*All sing the hymn:*

**(250) Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown**

*The Choir sings the third Advent Antiphon:*

***O Radix Jesse***

*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 11:1-4 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:*

***Adam lay ybounden***

*Adam lay ybounden,  
Bounden in a bond.  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took,  
As clerkes finden  
Written in their book.*

*Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never Our Lady  
A been heavene Queen.*

*Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was;  
Therefore we moun singen  
Deo Gratias.*

*Words: 15<sup>th</sup> century | Music: Boris Ord*

*The Choir sings the fourth Advent Antiphon:*

***O Clavis David***

*O Key of David, that openest and no man shutteth, that 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:*

**(470) Hills of the north, rejoice!**

*The Choir sings the fifth Advent Antiphon:*

**O Oriens**

*O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light and Sun 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 swore 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.*

*Words: Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel | Music: Palestrina*

*The Choir sings the sixth Advent Antiphon:*

**O Rex Gentium**

*O King of the Gentiles, desire of all nations, the cornerstone which maketh  
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:*

***Out of your sleep***

*Out of your sleep arise and wake,  
For God mankind now hath y-take.  
All of a maid without any make;  
Of all women she beareth the bell.*

*And through a maide fair and wise,  
Now man is made of full great price;  
Now angels knelen to man's seroice,  
And at this time all this befell.*

*Now man is brighter than the sun;  
Now man in heaven on high shall won;  
Blessed be God this game is begun,  
And his mother, the Empress of hell.*

*That ever was thrall now is he free;  
That ever was small now great is she;  
Now shall God deem both thee and me  
Unto his bliss if we do well.*

*Now man he may to heaven wend;  
Now heaven and earth to him they bend.  
He that was foe now is our friend.  
This is no nay that I you tell.*

*Now blessed Brother grant us grace,  
At doomes day to see thy face,  
And in thy court to have a place,  
That we may there sing thee nowell.*

*Words: 15<sup>th</sup> century | Music: Richard Rodney Bennett*

*The Choir sings the seventh Advent Antiphon:*

***O Emmanuel***

*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the hope of all peoples and their salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

*The seventh Reading: St Mark 13:33-37*

*Christ exhorts his followers to be vigilant in prayer.*

*The Choir sings:*

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come*

*Peace be to you, and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all, and shed His blood that we might saved be.*

*Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord Almighty God,  
Who was, and is, and is to come.*

*Rejoice in heaven that dwell therein;  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below;  
For Christ is coming soon.*

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more.  
They need no lamp, nor light, nor sun:  
For Christ will be their all.*

*Words: Revelation 22 | Music: Paul Manz*

*The Prayers*

*The Advent Collect*

*All sing the hymn:*

**(28) Lo! he comes with clouds descending**  
*during which a collection will be taken.*

*The Blessing*

*The Minister and Choir recess.*

*The Choir sings:*

***The Advent Prose***

*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.*

*Words: Rorate Cæli | Music: Plainsong*

## St Mary's Singers

Hannah Williams | Sarah McDowell | Jo Hodges | Katy Alexander  
Jo Pugh | Toby Wardman | Pete Warman | Oli Blaiklock