

# Advent Processional Service

incorporating the Great Advent 'O' Antiphons

Advent Sunday

2 December 2007

5pm

St Peter's Church, Sowerby

---

The Choir of St Mary's Church, Cottonstones

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

Before the service begins, the lights are extinguished.

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.*

All: **Amen.**

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

**The Choir sings:**

**The Matin Responsory**

**Music by Giovanni Puerluigi da 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: 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 Antiphon:**

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

*O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Highest: transforming the world from end to end: ordering all with might and gentleness:  
O come and reveal to us the path of wisdom and insight.*

The first reading:

*Proverbs 8: 1-4, 10-11*

*Divine Wisdom makes its appeal*

**The Choir sings:**

**A new work is come on hand**

**Music by Peter Wishart**

**The Choir sings the second Antiphon:**

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

*O Adonai: ruler of the house of Israel: who appeared to Moses in the burning bush,  
and gave him the law upon the mountainside:  
O come and free us with the strength of your arm.*

The second reading:

*Exodus 2:23 - 3:6*

*Moses encounters the burning bush.*

All sing the hymn:

**26 O come, O come, Emmanuel**

**The Choir sings the third Antiphon:**

**O Sproß aus Isaias Wurzel: gesetzt zum Zeichen für die Völker: vor dir verstummen die Herrscher der Erde: dich flehen an die Völker: O komm und errette uns, erhebe dich, säume nicht länger.**

*O offshoot of the root of Isaiah: the ensign of all the nations:  
before whom the rulers of the world fall silent: for whom all peoples pray:  
O come, arise and rescue us without delay.*

The third reading:

*Isaiah 11: 1-4, 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**

**Music by Howard Skempton**

**The Choir sings the fourth Antiphon:**

**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: sceptre of the house of Israel: what you open, none can close:  
and what you close, none has the power to open:  
O come and open the prison of darkness, and release us from the shackles of death.*

The fourth reading:

*Micah 4: 1-5*

*The promise of an age of peace.*

All sing the hymn:

**484 Long ago, prophets knew**

**The Choir sings the fifth Antiphon:**

**O Morgenstern: Glanz des unversehrten Lichtes: Der Gerechtigkeit  
strahlende Sonne: O komm und erleuchte, die da sitzen in Finsternis, und  
im Schatten des Todes.**

*O morning star: splendour of eternal light: brilliant Sun of Righteousness:  
O come and enlighten those that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.*

The fifth reading:

*St Luke 1: 57-68*

*The birth of John the Baptist.*

**The Choir sings:**

**Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel**

**Music by Thomas Tallis**

**The Choir sings the sixth Antiphon:**

**O König aller Völker: ihre Erwartung und Sehnsucht: Schlußstein, der den Bau zusammenhält: O komm und errette den Menschen, den du aus Erde gebildet!**

*O King of all the nations: the object of their hope and of their yearning:  
the keystone that holds together the earth:  
O come and rescue the people whom you formed from clay.*

The sixth reading:

*St Mark 1: 4-8*

*The testimony of John the Baptist to Jesus.*

**The Choir sings:**

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence**

**Music by Edward Bairstow**

**The Choir sings the seventh Antiphon:**

**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 our teacher: the hope and the saviour of the nations:  
O come quickly to our aid, O thou our Lord and our God.*

The seventh reading:

*St Mark 13: 33-37*

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

**The Choir sings:**

**Never weather-beaten sail**

**Music by Thomas Campion**

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 the Choir recess.

**The Choir sings:**

**The Advent Prose**

**Plainsong**

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.

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.

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.

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 in German to a setting by the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. All join in the prayers, and in the singing of hymns.