

**The Parish Church of St George the Martyr,
Waterlooville**

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

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Sunday, 27th November, 2022

WELCOME TO OUR ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

During Advent we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ. As he comes, he fulfils God's promise to us: a covenant of relationship, forgiveness and healing.

We experience his coming in the gift of the Spirit seen among us in the joy of shared human lives.

We experience his coming in the bread of the Eucharist when we look forward to the fulfilment of his universal purposes. We anticipate the experience of him in the mystery of his birth as the Child of Bethlehem.

We see him in suffering children of conflict. We see him in the poor and the outcast and we see him in those who work tirelessly for peace and justice. We welcome his coming into a world torn by war and conflict.

We prepare for this great season in our service tonight with music, hymns, carols, scripture readings, poems and light; symbolising God's holiness and our journey away from darkness and despair towards the light of Christ.

We pray for those who experience very little light at this time - whether through sickness, doubt or despair. We ask you to pray for our world so in need of Love and forgiveness.

Together we offer ourselves and our community to God's healing touch as he comes to us throughout all time awaiting our response again this Advent.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Voluntary:

Meditation on Veni Emmanuel

Philip Moore (b.1943)

After the Organ Voluntary please observe a few moments of silence before the service begins.

The congregation remains seated as the clergy and servers enter through the west door carrying lighted candles. The Church is in near darkness. From the back of church the priest says:

Priest: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World

All: A light no darkness can quench

Choir: *Matin Responsory (adopted from a Magnificat by Palestrina)*

When the priest arrives at the front the lights come on.

Introduction and welcome

Priest In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you.

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: and also with you.

Priest As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's Kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us. How that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Hymn: The Lord will come and not be slow (NEH 15)

Prayers

O Lord, come to us quickly. We call to you, send the light of your love into the wounded places of your world. Enlighten us that we may see an end to injustice and cruelty. Give peace to nations at war and hope to the hopeless places.

All Let my prayer come before you in offering O Lord, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

O Lord of the Advent, dawn in our hearts and shine in our minds. Give strength to the weak, courage to the strong and protection for the defenceless. May the light of your love surround all those who live in the darkness of hatred, despair, fear and prejudice.

All Let my prayer come before you in offering O Lord, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

O loving God, today yesterday and tomorrow. Keep us watchful and faithful in following your Gospel of Love for all people; so when at the end of time, your promise is fulfilled, we are not found sleeping in despair, but active in your service and joyful in your praise.

All Let my prayer come before you in offering O Lord, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

O God that comes in the night. Turn our eyes and direct our ways always in peace and always in humility that we may know you and hear you. See you and follow you. Take our hands Lord and use them to your purpose. Make us a friend to you and a friend to all those with whom we share our lives.

All Let my prayer come before you in offering O Lord, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (NEH 11)

The Fifth Reading Luke 1:26-38
(Mary humbly accepts God's will for her)

Choir: Ave Maria Jacques Arcadelt (1507-1568)

Final Prayer.

Priest Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen

Hymn: Lo! He comes with Clouds Descending (NEH 9)

The Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for eternal life.

All Amen

May God the Son, who comes to us as Redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light.

All **Amen**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

All **Amen**

and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always

All **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ

All: **Thanks be to God**

Organ Voluntary.

Postlude on Little Cornard

Alan Bullard (b.1947)

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