

ADVENT

Lessons & Carols



Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica,
65 Bond Street, Toronto, Ontario

ADVENT

The season of Advent is traditionally a time of preparation for Christmas, and its observance dates from the sixteenth century in Gaul. It stretched from St. Martin's Day (November 11th) to Christmas Eve, and was known as "The Lent of St. Martin." This title suggests a parallel between Advent and the Lenten fast, and meditations on the themes of judgement and our ultimate destiny were developed for each of the four Sundays.

Advent is a season observed in many Western Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for His Second Coming.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659)
Come, Saviour of the gentiles

Johann Sebastian Bach

Antiphon

I O Sapientia

Gregorian chant

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things.
Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

The Procession *(Please stand and join in singing)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel

WAA 19

Opening Verse and Response

Presider: Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.
All: **Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
Presider: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
All: **Come and save us O Lord God of hosts.**

Opening Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Stir up, we beseech you, your power O Lord, and come; that by your protection
we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins
and saved by your mighty deliverance.
Help us to make ready the way of your only begotten Son,
so that by His coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds.
Lord give ear to our prayers,
and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation;
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Antiphon

II O Adonai

Gregorian chant

*O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai.
Come, redeem us with an outstretched arm.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.



He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.



Senior Choir: Thou shalt know him

Mark Sirett

First Petition *(Please stand)*

The Messiah will come to life if the faith we speak becomes the justice we live.
We do not have to go to another land to find the oppressed,
the burdened, and the brokenhearted.
They are all around us.
Bring food and drink, bring life and light,
bring love and the Good News,

bring yourself to those whose hearts are heavy,
and the Messiah will be born again.

My prayer for Advent is,
in revealing Christ to others,
may we unveil Him to ourselves;
in coming to life in them,
may He come to light in us.

Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship
might echo in these walls
and also through our lives. **Amen.**



(Please be seated)

Antiphon

III O Radix Jesse

Gregorian chant

*O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer.
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.*

Second Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."



A voice says, 'Cry out!'
 And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
 All people are grass,
 their constancy is like the flower of the field.
 The grass withers, the flower fades,
 when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
 surely the people are grass.
 The grass withers, the flower fades;
 but the word of our God will stand for ever.
 Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good tidings;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
 lift it up, do not fear;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 'Here is your God!'
 See, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.



Junior & Elementary Choirs: He shall feed his flock (*from Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel

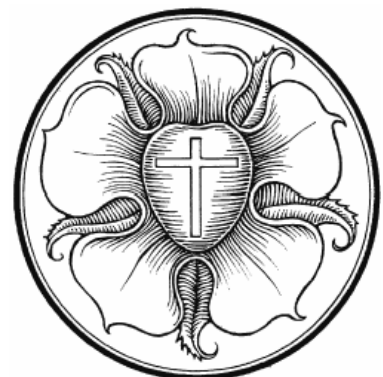
Second Petition (*Please stand*)

We all wait in expectancy,
 for our God is indeed a hidden God.
 But we need not wait passively for Him to find us.
 Let us seek Him in our friends and family, in the crowded shopping malls,
 and in the streets of our city.
 My prayer for Advent is that we seek Christ together
 as a community of believers;
 and that the Christ we see in each other
 is the same Christ who is God-with-us.

Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Advent is a time of hope and mystery,
 anticipation, and preparation,
 and a king of this world and the next
 appearing when we least expect.
 It is the story of a people,
 searching for a Saviour.



Open our eyes and hearts, O Lord,
that in seeking you, we might bring
an Advent of hope to the world. **Amen.**

Congregational Hymn
Come, thou long-expected Jesus

WAA 13ii

(Please be seated)

Antiphon

IV O Clavis David

Gregorian chant

*O Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open.
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

Third Lesson

Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.



As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Senior Choir: O thou, the central orb

Charles Wood

Third Petition *(Please stand)*

Christ came to bring peace.
But not as the world gives it.
In Bethlehem God confronted with His own flesh
the foundations of our fear,
and began the task of reconciliation.
He makes it possible for us to live at peace with God,

with my brothers and sisters,
and even with the hostile world.
My prayer for Advent
is to live unafraid through Jesus Christ our Lord
and to reach out with my hand and heart
and connect others to Him in love.



Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

The God of hope brought love into this world,
and is the love that dwells between us.
The God of hope brought peace into this world,
and is the peace that dwells between us.
The God of hope, brought joy into this world,
and is the joy that dwells between us.
May the God of hope always be the rock we stand upon,
and the centre of our lives in this time of Advent. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Antiphon

V O Oriens

Gregorian chant

*O Morning Star,
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness.
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26-28

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary.
And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one!
The Lord is with you.'
But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favour with God.
And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.
He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him
the throne of his ancestor David.
He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.'



Tenor Bass Choir: Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Michael Praetorius

Fourth Petition (*Please stand*)

All love begins with God and grows in Jesus.
All that this love implies can be found in Mary,
tenderness, faithfulness, affection,
self-giving and self-sacrifice.
If we give of ourselves as she did
then, we can give birth to Christ,
in the love we share with each other.
My prayer for Advent is that all God's people
are open to God's will and to receiving the Messiah
when he comes.



Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

In Advent we remember Mary,
and give thanks for her faithfulness,
courage, and obedience.
And for stepping out into the unknown
and playing part in the fulfilment of your plan.
We pray that her example
might be the pattern of our lives,
that when your gentle whisper
breaks through the clamour of this world
and into our small corner,
we might be ready to listen,
and having listened, to act. **Amen.**



(*Please be seated*)

Antiphon:

VI O Rex Gentium

*O King of the nations, and what they desire;
the cornerstone making both one.
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.*

Gregorian Chant

Fifth Lesson

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.
When His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man

Matthew 1:18-24

and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,
 planned to dismiss her quietly.
 But just when he had resolved to do this,
 an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
 for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,
 for he will save His people from their sins.'
 All this took place
 to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel',
 which means, 'God is with us.'
 When Joseph awoke from sleep,
 he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;
 he took her as his wife.



Senior Choir: And the glory of the Lord (*from Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel

Congregational Hymn & Freewill Offering (*Please stand*)

O come, divine Messiah!

WAA 15

Reflection: His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto

Antiphon

VII O Emmanuel

Gregorian chant

*O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
 hope of the nations and their Saviour.
 Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

Responsory (*Please stand*)

Presider: Your light will come Jerusalem:
 All: **The Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty.**
 Presider: You will see his beauty within you:
 All: **The Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty.**
 Presider: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
 All: **The Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty.**

Presider: Let us all prayer for unity and peace in our world, using the prayer that our Saviour gave us. **Our Father...**

Junior & Senior Choirs: (*Please remain standing*)

Magnificat

Thomas Barrett Armstrong

Closing Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

God of hope and promise,
be with us throughout this Advent season
and draw us ever closer as we journey together
toward the stable and the birth of your Son.
Prepare our hearts not only for the celebration to come,
but also for sharing that Good News with friends, family and colleagues.
Grant us courage and a real willingness
to talk about the love that came down to earth
and walked among us. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn *(Please join in singing)*

Lo! he comes with clouds descending

WAA 5

Organ Postlude

Choral Toccata über Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
Awake, a voice is calling

Jan Janca



His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, presider

The Choirs of St. Michael's Choir School

Maria Conkey, conductor

Teri Dunn, conductor

Peter Mahon, conductor

William O'Meara, organist



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