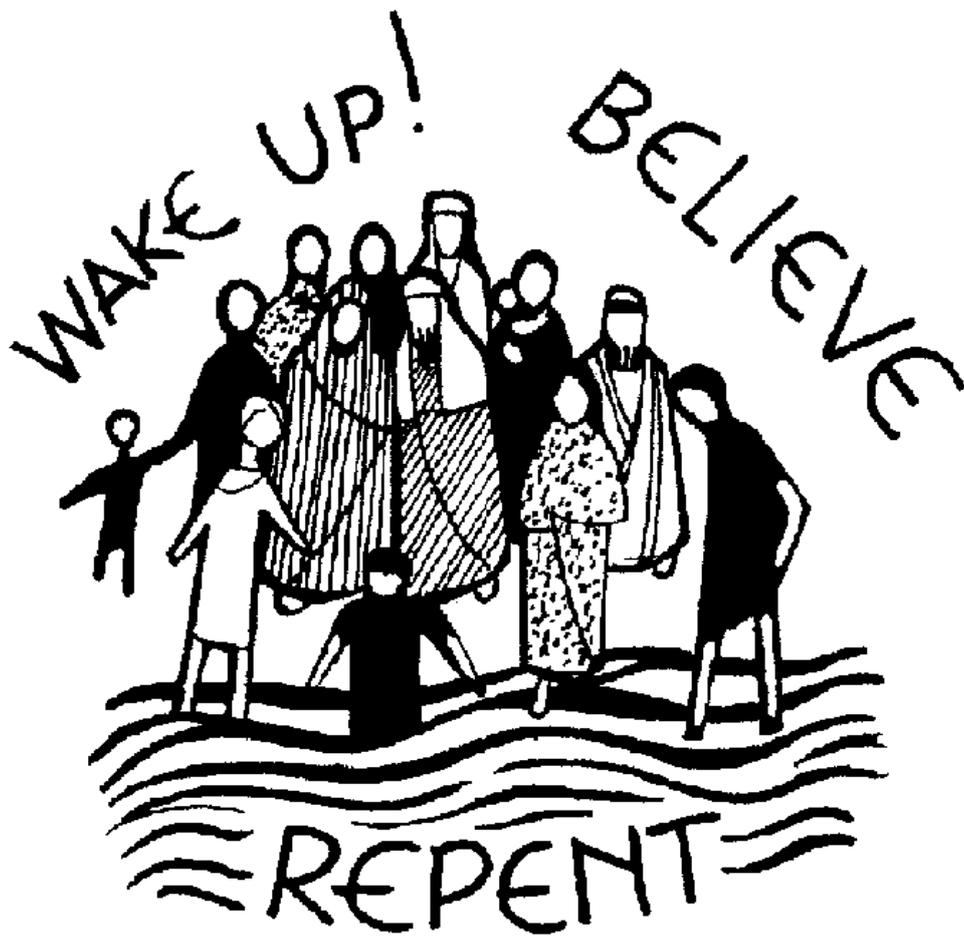


The United Benefice of
Warton and Borwick with Yealand

Advent Carol Service



Looking for the light

(broadcast on Sunday 29th November 2020)

A very warm welcome to everyone who is joining us online via our YouTube channel.

Officiating Minister: The Revd Robin Figg, Vicar

First reading: Sally-Ann Rothwell (*recorded at home*)

Second reading: Emma Rucastle (*recorded at home*)

Third reading: Dave Scott (*recorded at home*)

Fourth reading: Granville Tunnicliffe Wilson (*recorded at home*)

Fifth reading: Joyce Tombs (*recorded at home*)

Sixth reading: Alan Thompson (*recorded at home*)

Intercessions: Jane Lever (*recorded at home*)

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation. The readings and liturgies direct us towards Christ's birth, and the promise of God's presence with us always, in every time and every place.

The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

Music before the service

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Basque Carol, Charles Bordes (Collector) (1863-1909),

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Sung by St Martin's Voices

The service is introduced by the Vicar.

Welcoming the light

The following is said

You, O Lord, are my lamp:
You turn our darkness into light.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

The Advent Prose

The Advent Prose Sung by Natalie Miller, Steph Burford and Jane Lever of St Oswald's Church Choir

Bidding Prayer

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.

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

All **and also with you.**

My brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ.

Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us.

And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

A short time of silence is kept, after which the minister prays the Collect of Advent Sunday

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 1.1-5 *And God said: Let there be light*

Hymn O come, O come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
redeem thy captive Israel,
that into exile drear is gone,
far from the face of God's dear son.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou branch of Jesse, draw
the quarry from the lion's claw;
from the dread caverns of the grave,
from nether hell, thy people save.

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright.
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.

O Come, thou Lord of David's Key.
The royal door fling wide and free;
safeguard for us the heavenward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.

O come, O come, Adonai,
who in thy glorious majesty
from that high mountain clothed in awe,
gavest thy folk the elder Law.

*Latin 13th century, translated by T. A. Lacey (1853-1931) © Oxford University Press.
Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Second Reading

Come, God-with-us *Thom M. Shuman © 2005*

Hymn Hills of the north, rejoice

Hills of the North, rejoice,
echoing songs arise,
hail with united voice
him who made earth and skies;
he comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
the God whom you have longed to know
in Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the sons of earth be blest.

*Editors of English Praise (1975) based on Charles E Oakley (1832-1865)
© Oxford University Press. Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Third Reading

Isaiah 60.1-5a *Look to the east*

Hymn Christ be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell (born 1957) © 1994 Bernadette Farrell published by OCP Publications 5536 NE Hassalo Portland OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Sung by St Martin's Voices

Fourth Reading

Isaiah 9.2-3,6-7 *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light*

Hymn Long ago prophets knew

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his People's burden,
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethl'em shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) © 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd.
Sung by St Martin's Voices.

Fifth Reading

Maybe *Thom M. Shuman © 2005*

Hymn On Jordan's bank

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
and furnished for so great a guest.
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace our souls must fade
and wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand, to heal our sore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit bless, for evermore.

Jordanis oras praevia. Charles Coffin (1676-1749). Translated John Chandler (1806-1876). Sung by St Martin's Voices

Sixth Reading

John 1.6-8, 19-28 *Witnessing to the light*

Prayers

The following response is used

Maranatha:

All Come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly,
alleluia! Come, Lord, come!.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Martin Madan (1726-1790), John Cennick (1718-1755). Sung by St Martin's Voices

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 with you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Music after the service

People look east! - *Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)*
Sung by St Martin's Voices

