

Pershore Abbey



Advent Carol Service 2023

The King and his Kingdom



Welcome to our Advent Carol Service.

The congregation is invited to stand for the carols and to sit for the choir pieces and readings.

Organ Chorale Prelude on Wachet auf (Wake O wake) – *Bach (1685-1750)*

*During which the choir and clergy will process.
The congregation remains seated.*

Choir Zion hört die Wächter singen,
Zion hears the watchmen sing,
Das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,
her heart leaps for joy,
Sie wachet und steht eilend auf.
she awakes and gets up in haste.
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,
Her friend comes from heaven in his splendour,
Von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,
strong in mercy, mighty in truth.
Ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.
Her light becomes bright, her star rises.
Nun komm, du werthe Kron,
Now come, you worthy crown,
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn!
Lord Jesus, God's son!
Hosianna!
Hosanna!
Wir folgen all
We all follow
Zum Freudensaal
to the hall of joy
Und halten mit das Abendmahl.
and share in the Lord's supper.

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

Carol

Lo, he comes with clouds descending

(Helmsley)

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign. (x 3)

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,
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
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:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

[Charles Wesley, (1707-1788)
and John Cennick, (1718-1755)]

The First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, your king comes to you

Carol

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

(Merton)

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

That when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

[Edward Caswall, 1814-1878]

The Second Reading Jeremiah 23:5-6

I will raise up for David a righteous branch

Choir

A Tender Shoot - *Goldschmidt (1829-1907)*

*A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.*

*This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.*

Carol

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

(Cross of Jesus)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

[Charles Wesley, 1707-1788]

The Third Reading

Psalm 118:19-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness

Carol

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

(Bristol)

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

[Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751]

The Fourth Reading

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light

Carol

Longing for light

(Longing for 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.

(Cont.)

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, b. 1957]

The Fifth Reading

Isaiah 7:10-15

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son

Carol

Earth was waiting, spent and restless

(Picardy)

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear,
faithful men and women praying,
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:
the Desire of all the nations —
it is time he should appear!

(Cont.)

Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened her with blessing,
and he pained her with renown;
for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.

[Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908]

Choir

Lighten our Darkness – *Stanford (1852-1924)*

*Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and
dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our
Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Sixth Reading

Romans 12:1-2; 13:11-14

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed

Carol

Hills of the North, rejoice

(Little Cornard)

Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

(Cont.)

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:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.

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 home,
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 universe be blest.

[Editors of English Praise, 1975
based on Charles Ernest Oakley, 1832-1865]

The Seventh Reading Matthew 25:1-13

Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour

Choir

All Hail to the Days - Traditional (arr. Paul Trepte (b. 1954))

*All hail to the days that merit more praise
Than all the rest of the year,
And welcome the nights that double delights,
As well for the poor as the peer!
Good fortune attend each merry man's friend,
That doth but the best that he may;
Forgetting old wrongs, with carols and songs,
To drive the cold winter away.*

*'Tis ill for a mind to anger inclined
To think of small injuries now;
If wrath be to seek do not lend her thy cheek
Nor let her inhabit thy brow.
Cross out of thy books malevolent looks,
Both beauty and youth's decay,
And wholly consort with mirth and with sport
To drive the cold winter away.*

*This time of the year is spent in good cheer,
And neighbours together do meet,
To sit by the fire, with friendly desire,
Each other in love do greet;
Old grudges forgot, are put in the pot,
All sorrows aside they lay,
The old and the young doth carol his song,
To drive the cold winter away.*

Conclusion

Blessed be the Lord. the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Advent Sunday

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.

Amen.

Carol

O come, O come, Emmanuel

(Veni Emmanuel)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

(Cont.)

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:

[John Mason Neale. 1818-1866]

Blessing

Organ Voluntary – Fugue on Magnificat - *Bach (1685-1750)*

Organist - Matthew Martin
Director of Music - Paul Trepte

*

Please join us after the service for coffee, tea and biscuits.

Common Worship: Times and Seasons for the Church of England
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Please join us at
PERSHORE ABBEY
for **CHRISTMAS 2023**

Sunday 3 December

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

10301030 Edible Nativity - Booking Essential (*St Andrew's Centre*)

Email office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or call 01386 552071 by 27 November

1500 Advent Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

Sunday 10 December

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

0945 Café Church (*St Andrew's Centre*)

1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

1700 Wholeness & Healing Service: Light in Our Darkness (*St Andrew's Centre*)

Sunday 17 December

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

1030 Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

1700 Christmas Carol Service (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

1030 Morning Praise (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

1530 Christingle Service (*Pershore Abbey*)

Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle!

2315 Midnight Mass with Choir (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

Christmas Day Monday 25 December

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

1030 All Age Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

New Year's Eve Sunday 31 December

0800 Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey*)

1030 Benefice Sung Eucharist (*Pershore Abbey with LIVESTREAM*)*

*Join in with our **LIVESTREAM** services at the time advertised on the
Pershore Abbey Community YouTube Channel or catch up later

www.pershoreabbey.org.uk

email: office@pershoreabbey.org.uk

Pershore Abbey

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

17:00

Pershore Abbey

A wonderful chance to sing your favourite Christmas Carols and to hear the Abbey Choir sing some beautiful anthems

Organist: Iain Simcock / Director of Music: Paul Trepte

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
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Pershore Abbey

LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS



SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER

17:00

St Andrew's Centre

A service of reflection with prayers for Wholeness and Healing.
This is a service for people who would like to find some peace and quiet during this busy Christmas time.



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Pershore Abbey

MIDNIGHT MASS



CHRISTMAS EVE

23:15

Pershore Abbey

A special service celebrating the birth of Christ, the Light of the World, in the midst of darkness.

ALL WELCOME

This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube Channel
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Pershore Abbey

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE

15:30

Pershore Abbey

JOIN OUR FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE!

Dress up in your favourite nativity outfit for our traditional Christingle



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