

**Parish of Central Windsor**

# **Choral Evensong**

**according to  
The Book of Common Prayer**



**Second Sunday of Advent**

**7<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
5.30pm**

**A warm welcome to  
All Saints' Church  
for our service this evening**

Organ music before the service: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (JS Bach)

Please stand for:  
THE OPENING HYMN

**Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling  
the watchmen all the air are filling,  
arise, Jerusalem, arise!  
Midnight strikes! No more delaying,  
‘The hour has come!’ we hear them saying,  
where are ye all, ye virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes in sight,  
raise high your torches bright!  
Alleluia!  
The wedding song swells loud and strong:  
go forth and join the festal throng.**

**Zion hears the watchmen shouting,  
her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,  
she stands and waits with eager eyes;  
see her Friend from heaven descending,  
adorned with truth and grace unending!  
Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.  
Now come, thou precious Crown,  
Lord Jesus, God’s own Son!  
Alleluia!  
Let us prepare to follow there,  
where in thy supper we may share.**

*Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)  
tr F.C.Burkitt (1864-1935)  
based on Matthew 25, 1-13  
and Revelation 19,6-9*

*The Opening Sentence and Introduction are said:*

Dearly beloved....

*A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation,*

Almighty and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*The Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that 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 Preces and Responses are sung*

V. O Lord, open thou our lips

R. And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

V. O God, make speed to save us.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

V. Praise ye the Lord.

R. The Lord's Name be praised.

*The appointed Psalm is sung*

**PSALM 11**

**1**In the Lord put I my trust : how say ye then to my soul, that she should flee as a bird unto the hill?

**2**For lo, the ungodly bend their bow, and make ready their arrows within the quiver : that they may privily shoot at them which are true of heart.

**3**For the foundations will be cast down : and what hath the righteous done?

**4**The Lord is in his holy temple : the Lord's seat is in heaven.

**5**His eyes consider the poor : and his eye-lids try the children of men.

**6**The Lord alloweth the righteous : but the ungodly, and him that delighteth in wickedness, doth his soul abhor.

**7**Upon the ungodly he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, storm and tempest : this shall be their portion to drink.

**8**For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness : his countenance will behold the thing that is just.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

## *A Lesson of the Old Testament is read*

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of Isaiah

### **Isaiah 11 1-9**

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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;
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> 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.

Here endeth the Lesson: **Thanks be to God**

## The Magnificat *is sung*

**My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded:  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.  
For behold, from henceforth:  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed,  
for ever.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

## *A Lesson of the New Testament is read*

The Second Lesson is taken from the book of Revelation

### **Revelation 21 1-7**

**21** <sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Here endeth the Lesson: **Thanks be to God**

**The Nunc Dimittis** *is sung by the choir to the setting Stanford in C*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*The Apostles' Creed is said*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried:  
He descended into hell;  
The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence  
he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
The holy Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body,  
And the Life everlasting. Amen.

**V. Lord be with you.**

**R. And with thy spirit.**

**V. Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**R. Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**V. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.**

**V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.**

**R. And grant us thy salvation.**

**V. O Lord, save the King.**

**R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

**V. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.**

**R. And make thy chosen people joyful.**

**V. O Lord, save thy people.**

**R. And bless thine inheritance.**

**V. Give peace in our time, O Lord.**

**R. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou,  
O God.**

**V. O God, make clean our hearts within us.**

**R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**



## The Collect for Second Sunday of Advent

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## *The Second Collect at Evening Prayer*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

## *The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils*

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.**

## *Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell)*

Prayers of Intercession are said, ending with

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.**

*Hymn before sermon*

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

***Refrain:***

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

**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:**

***Refrain***

**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:**

***Refrain***

**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:***

***Refrain***

**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:**

***Refrain***

*Latin Advent Antiphons  
tr J. M. Neale (1818-1866)*

**SERMON**

*Hymn after sermon*

**Glory to thee, my God, this night,  
for all the blessings of the light:  
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
beneath thine own almighty wings.**

**Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
the ill that I this day have done;  
that with the world, myself, and thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

**Teach me to live, that I may dread  
the grave as little as my bed;  
teach me to die, that so I may  
rise glorious at the awful day.**

**O may my soul on thee repose,  
and with sweet sleep my eyelids close;  
sleep that may me more vigorous make  
to serve my God when I awake.**

**When in the night I sleepless lie,  
my soul with heavenly thoughts supply;  
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
no powers of darkness me molest.**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him, all creatures here below,  
praise him above, angelic host,  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*Thomas Ken (1637-1731)*

**FINAL BLESSING**

**Voluntary: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (in organo pleno) (JS Bach)**

You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you for private reflection or to give to a friend.

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt “at home” here, that you will be refreshed by today’s service of worship and that you will return in the future.

We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.



If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask! You can also find out more by following the “Faith & Life” section on the Church of England website: **[churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe](https://churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe)**

If you don’t already, would you like to receive an email with details of next Sunday’s service, including the order of service? You can send a request by scanning the QR code or visiting our website and selecting the icon to the bottom right of the home screen.

**[windsorchurches.org.uk](https://windsorchurches.org.uk)**



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