



ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

3rd December 2023
7.00pm

ST MARY'S NORTH MELBOURNE

The Vicar, The Reverend Canon Jan Joustra

Director of Music: Beverley Philips

St Mary's Parish Choir and Friends

Welcome to St Mary's North Melbourne.

Thank you for joining us in worship.

*Please join in saying the text marked in **bold**
and singing the musical responses and hymns.*

Processional

Choir Introit: "As the dark awaits the dawn" Graeme Morton;

Text: S P Cherwien

"O come, O come, come Emmanuel. As the dark awaits the dawn so we await your light O Star of promise scatter night, loving bright till shades of fear are gone. Emmanuel, O Come. As the blue expectant hour before the silver skies we long to see your day arise, whole and wise, O lucent Morning Star. Rejoice, rejoice. As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease may we your healing light release, living peace, until your holy dawn. Shine, shine your future on this place, shine, shine, enlighten every guest that through us stream your holiness, bright and best. Come dawn, come dawn, O Sun of grace."

Congregation:

Em Am Em G Em Am Em

Am G D Am Em Am Em

Refrain

D G Bm Em Am Em C Am Bm Em

Re-joice! re-joice! Em-ma - nu-el shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

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

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O come, great Lord of might
who to the tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home,
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny:
from depths of hell your people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**O come, O dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayer and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

First Lesson Sin of Adam reversed in the Birth of Christ

Isaiah 60: 1-5

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Choir: "This is the truth sent from above" English Trad. R.V. Williams

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love: Therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all, both rich and poor. The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create, the next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell. Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice to place them both in Paradise, there to remain from evil free except they ate of such a tree. But they did eat which was a sin, and thus their ruin did begin. Ruined themselves, both you and me and all of their posterity. Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose, And so a promise soon did run that he would redeem us by his Son.

Second Lesson Witness of the Prophets

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.

Congregation:

Verses

Refrain

1. 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?

2. 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.

Refrain

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

Refrain

4. Journey ends: where afar
Bethlem 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.

Frederick Pratt Green 1903–2000
(Tis 283)

Third Lesson Waiting and Expecting
Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person

who does not live out a lifetime;
 for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
 and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
 they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
 They shall not build and another inhabit;
 they shall not plant and another eat;
 for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall
 long enjoy the work of their hands.
 They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity;
 for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
 and their descendants as well.
 Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.
 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
 but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
 They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Congregation:





**People look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today:
Love, the guest is on the way.**

All:

**Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

Ladies:

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

All:

**Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East
Set every peak and valley humming
with the Word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

© Text of *People look east*, Eleanor Farjeon, (1881-1965), David Higham Assoc. Ltd.

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, comfort my people,
 says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
 and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
 that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
 double for all her sins.
A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
 the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
 a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
 every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
 the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
 and all people will 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 like grass,
 and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
 because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
 but the word of our God endures forever."
You who bring good news to Zion,
 go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
 lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
 say to the towns of Judah,

“Here is your God!”
See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Choir: “Comfort, comfort ye my people” Johann Olearius

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace thus saith your God; comfort those who sit in darkness, bowed beneath oppression's load; speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over. Hark the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, Biding all men to repentance since the kingdom now is here. Oh that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God always, Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him. Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain; let your heart be true and humble, as befits his holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad. And all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken. Alleluia.

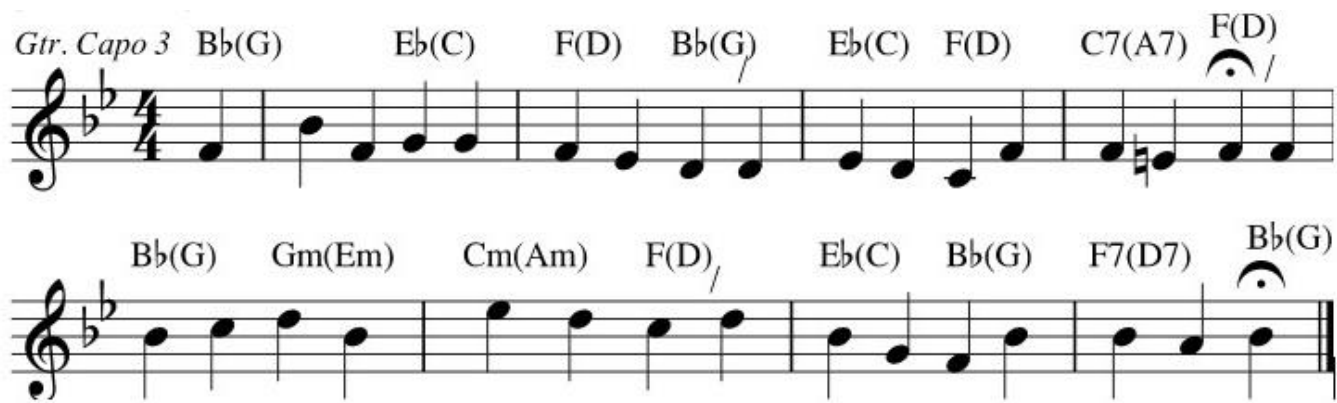
Fifth Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9a

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Congregation:



1. 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.
2. Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out your hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let your light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. To him who left the throne of heaven
to free us all, let praise be given;
and praise be to the Father done,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One.

*Charles Coffin 1676–1749 tr. John Chandler 1806–76 alt.
(Tis 270)*

Choir: "Jesus Christ the Apple tree" Elizabeth Poston.

The tree of life my soul hath see, laden with fruit and always green. The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell. The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Sixth Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Congregation:



1. **‘Wake, awake, for night is flying,’
the watchmen on the heights are crying,
‘Awake, Jerusalem, arise!’
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the rousing cry rejoices:
‘Where are you, all you virgins wise?
The bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lighted lamps then take.
Hallelujah!
With joy prepare
to meet him there;
the royal wedding feast is near.’**

- 3. Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and in her heart new joy is springing;
she wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord now comes all-glorious,
and strong in grace, in truth victorious;
her star has risen, her light has come.
Now come, O precious crown,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Hail, hosanna!
O lead us all
into the hall
where you provide your joyful meal.**
- 4. Now let all the heavens adore you,
and saints and angels sing before you
with harp and cymbal's joyful tone.
Gates of pearl in heaven are shining;
there, with the angel-choir combining,
we gather round your radiant throne.
No eye has seen that sight,
no ear heard such delight.
What rejoicing!
Yet there will we
eternally
with songs acclaim your majesty.**

Philipp Nicolai 1556–1608 tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827–78 alt.

Seventh Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-15

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Choir: “A tender shoot” Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

A tender shoot hath started up from the 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, our God of endless might, gave her this child to save us, thus turning darkness into light.

Eighth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;

Choir: "The white dove."

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

A dove as white as winter, from heaven came to earth, and greeted there a maiden, of humble birth.

She bowed her head and listened to his words. that she, above all others, was favored by the Lord.

Kyrie eleison.

The heavenly gates will open, thou shalt have a son; Emmanuel the most high, the King, the Chosen One.

For know, a blessed mother shalt thou be. All coming generations will laud and honor thee.

Kyrie eleison.

Our hope and expectation O Jesus appear. Arise, thou sun, so longed for above this darkened sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted, Lord to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee.

Kyrie Eleison.

Ninth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

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.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Congregation:

Gtr. Capo 2

Of the Father's heart begotten,
 Ere the world from chaos rose,
 He is Alpha from that Fountain
 All that is and hath been flows;
 He is Omega, of all things,
 Yet to come the mystic Close.
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
 He commanded and 'twas done;
 Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
 Universe of three in one,
 All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
 All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
 Sang in ages long gone by,
 This is he of old revealed
 Ion the page of prophecy;
 Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;
 Let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

**Sing ye heights of heav'n his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful;
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
*Evermore and evermore.***

Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armor 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.

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.*

Vesper Responsory: G P da Palestrina

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

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Congregation:

G Em C G /

D G D G C G D / G Em

C G / D G D

G C G D / D D7 G / #

(v. 2 deep - ly shamed be - fore him,

Em C D G / # Am D /

deep - ly shamed be - fore him, deep - ly shamed be - fore him, deep - ly shamed be - fore him.)

G Em D C G D G

**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 nought 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, eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim, claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

Postlude:

“Besançon/ Carol of the Advent” carillon

Rebecca Groom te Velde (b.1956)

St Mary's Choir is open to all. If you are interested please contact the DOM for further information or speak to a chorister.