

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

Voluntary: i) Chanson de la Vierge Pensive Andrew Carter  
ii) Chorale Prelude on "Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen" Brahms

Introit:

A great and mighty wonder C14 German melody, harm. Michael Praetorius

### **Call to Worship**

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins.”  
*Luke 1:76-77*

**Hymn:** 281 People look East

*Besançon*

*(Text omitted due to copyright law)*

### ***We bring to God our prayers and The Lord's Prayer***

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom,  
The power and the glory, forever.  
Amen**

### ***We hear the Word of God***

Old Testament: **Malachi 3:1-4**  
*(Read by: David Rimer)*

“Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of

hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

“For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Amen

### **Children’s Time**

***We respond to God’s Word with our Offering***  
*(Children invited to help with the Offering)*

Offertory:

Chorale Prelude on "Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland", BWV 599 J S Bach

### **Prayer**

**We light the second Advent candle**

*Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club*

**Hymn:** 277 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

*Crediton*

- 1 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart exult with joy,  
and every voice with song!
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to relieve,  
in Satan’s bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken hearts to bind,  
the bleeding souls to cure;  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.

- 4        The sacred year has now revolved,  
          accepted of the Lord,  
          when heaven's high promise is fulfilled,  
          and Israel is restored.
- 5        Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
          thy welcome shall proclaim;  
          and heaven's exalted arches ring  
          with thy most honoured name.

***We bring to God our Prayers of Confession***

***We hear the Word of God***

New Testament:        **Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tibe'ri-us Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturae'a and Trachoni'tis, and Lysa'ni-as tetrarch of Abile'ne, <sup>2</sup> in the high-priesthood of Annas and Ca'iaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechari'ah in the wilderness; <sup>3</sup> and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be brought low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Amen

Anthem: O Thou, the central orb

Charles Wood

O Thou the central orb - Charles Wood

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light  
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine,  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.  
Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,  
As stars about Thy throne, set in the height  
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight  
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
Our natures all shall feel eternal day,  
In fellowship with Thee, transforming clay  
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

(H R Bramley)

### **Intimations**

**Hymn:** 334 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

*Winchester New*

- 1        On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
          announces that the Lord is nigh;  
          awake and hearken for he brings  
          glad tidings of 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        Stretch out your hand, to heal our sore,  
          and make us rise to fall no more;  
          once more upon your people shine,  
          and fill the world with love divine.
- 5        All praise to you, eternal Son,  
          whose advent has our freedom won,  
          whom with the Father we adore,  
          and Holy Spirit, evermore.

***We bring to God our prayers  
of Thanksgiving and Intercession***

**Hymn:** CH2 Hills of the North

*Little Cornard*

1. Hills of the North, rejoice:  
River and mountain spring,  
Hark to the advent voice!  
Valley and lowland, sing!  
Though absent long, your Lord is nigh,  
He judgement brings, and victory.
2. Isles of the Southern seas,  
Deep in your coral caves  
Pent be each warring breeze,  
Lulled be your restless waves:  
He comes to reign with boundless sway,  
And make your wastes His great highway.
3. Lands of the East, awake!  
Soon shall your sons be free,  
The sleep of ages break,  
And rise to liberty:  
On your far hills, long cold and grey,  
Has dawned the everlasting day.
4. Shores of the utmost West,  
Ye that have waited long,  
Unvisited, unblest,  
Break forth to swelling song;  
High raise the note, that Jesus died,  
Yet lives and reigns – the Crucified!
5. Shout while ye journey home!  
Songs be in every mouth! –  
Lo, from the North we come,  
From East, and West, and South;  
City of God, the bond are free;  
We come to live and reign in thee.

## **Benediction and Threefold Amen**

Voluntary: Fuga sopra Il Magnificat, BWV 733

J S Bach