

Advent Choral Vespers

MMXX

Recorded in St Philip's Anglican Church, Vancouver, B.C.

Choir's Preparatory Prayer

Director The Lord be with you.

Choir And also with you.

Director Bless, O Lord, us your servants who minister in your house. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir Amen.

"The Choristers' Prayer" from the School of English Church Music (1934)

Preces

O Lord, open Thou our lips,
and our mouth shall shew forth Thy praise.

Psalm 51:15

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Psalm 40:13

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.

Praise ye the Lord! The Lord's name be praised!

Psalm 150:1

Music: Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)

Advent Responsive Reading¹

One Jesus calls to those who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens:

**All Come to me, and I will give you rest. I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.**

Matthew 11:28

One I wait for you, Lord, my soul waits, and in your word I hope.

All My soul waits for you, Lord, more than sentries watch for dawn.

Isaiah 40:5

One I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
My whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
**All he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

¹ *Take our Moments and our Days, An Anabaptist Prayer Book*, Vol. 2: *Advent Through Pentecost* (Scottsdale, PA: Herold Press, 2010), pp. 43-44.

One For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
**All so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.** [Isaiah 61:10-11]

One With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation.
All We give thanks to you, Lord; we call on your name.
One You are the Lord for whom we have waited;
All we are glad and rejoice in your salvation.

Isaiah 12:3-4

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, And manifest thy virgin-birth: Let ev'ry age adoring fall, Such birth befits the God of all.	From God the Father he proceeds, To God the Father back he speeds, Runs out his course to death and hell, Returns on God's high throne to dwell.
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Begotten of no human will, But of the Spirit, thou art still The Word of God, in flesh arrayed, The Saviour, now to man displayed.	O equal to thy Father, thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now, The weakness of our mortal state With deathless might invigorate.
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Forth from that chamber goeth he, That royal home of purity, A giant in two-fold substance one, Rejoicing now his course to run.	Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, And darkness glow with newborn light, No more shall night extinguish day, Where love's bright beams their power display.
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O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

St. Ambrose (c. 340-397), trans. J. M. Neale;
music by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), arr. Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948)

Advent Wreath (Advent 3)

Blessed are you, Sov'reign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory forever!

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light,
that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again in glory and judgement;
for you are our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

Liturgical Reading; music by Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Sleepers, wake!

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us;	Zion hears the watchmen singing.
The shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:	Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”	She wakes and hurries through the night.
Midnight’s peace their cry has broken,	Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious
Their urgent summons clearly spoken:	In strength of grace, in truth victorious;
“The time has come, O maidens wise!	her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Rise up and give us light;	Now come, most worthy Lord.
The bridegroom is in sight.	God’s Son, incarnate Word,
Alleluia!	Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,	We follow all and heed your call
That you the wedding feast may share.”	To come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
Let saints and angels sing before you,
As harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city’s portals:
Through them we stream to join the immortals
As we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight;
No ear heard such delight;
Alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King;
Forever let our praises ring.

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), *Freuden-Spiegel des ewigen Lebens* (1599),
trans Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944-)
melody by Hans Sachs (1494-1576), adapted by Philipp Nicolai (1566-1608),
harmonized by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Reading

I said, “Let me walk in the fields.”
He said, “Nay, walk in the town.”
I said, “There are no flowers there.”
He said, “No flowers, but a crown.”

I said, “But the sky is black,
There is nothing but noise and din.”
But he wept as he sent me back—
“There is more,” he said, “there is sin.”

George MacDonald (1824-1905), Scottish novelist

Remember, O thou man

Remember, O thou man, *O thou man, O thou man,*
Remember, O thou man, *Thy time is spent:*
Remember, O thou man, *How thou art dead and gone,*
And I did what I can: *Therefore repent!*

Remember Adam's fall, *O thou man, O thou man,*
Remember Adam's fall, *From heaven to hell!*
Remember Adam's fall, *How we were condemnéd all*
In hell perpetual, *There for to dwell.*

Remember God's goodnesse, *O thou man, O thou man,*
Remember God's goodnesse, *And his promise made!*
Remember God's goodnesse; *How he sent his Sonne, doubtlesse,*
Our sinnes for to redresse: *Be not afraid!*

The angels all did sing, *O thou man, O thou man,*
The angels all did sing *Upon the shepherds' hill;*
The angels all did singe *Praises to our heavenly king,*
And peace to man living *With a good will.*

16th-century English carol;
music by Thomas Ravenscroft (c. 1582-1635)

Miserere nobis (with prayers²)

Musical score for "Miserere nobis" in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system contains the lyrics: "Mi - se - re - re no - bis, mi - se - re - re". The second system contains the lyrics: "no - bis, Do - - - mi - ne." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Music by John L. Bell, Iona Community

² Horton Davies, ed., *The Communion of Saints, Prayers of the Famous* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990).

Miserere nobis

A recent prayer from *Christianity Today*:

God, during these days we ask for your mercy for the sick and infected.
Heal and help your people.
Sustain bodies and spirits.
Contain the spread of infection,
protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease.
Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.
Guide our elected officials as they allocate the resources for combatting this
pandemic.
Give our scientific community them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.

Christianity Today, March 18, 2020

Miserere nobis

A prayer by Samuel Longfellow:

Holy Spirit, peace divine
Still this restless heart of mine,
Speak to calm this tossing sea,
Stayed in thy tranquility.

Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)

Miserere nobis

A prayer from the 8th century Gelasian Sacramentary:

O God, stir up your power, and with great might come among us.
And because we are sorely hindered by our sins,
let your bountiful grace and mercy
speedily help and deliver us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gelasian Sacramentary (8th c.)

Miserere nobis

A prayer by Albrecht Dürer:

O God in heaven, have mercy on us!
Lord Jesus Christ, intercede for your people,
deliver us at the opportune time,
preserve in us the true genuine Christian faith,
collect your scattered sheep with your voice,
your divine Word as Holy Writ calls it.
Help us to recognize your voice,
help us not to be allured by the madness of the world,
so that we may never fall away from you, O Lord Jesus Christ.

Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528)

Miserere nobis

Matins Responsory

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

First Responsory of Advent Sunday for the Office of Matins, early mediaeval Roman rite;
music by Giovanni Palestrina (1525-1594), adopt. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

Choir's Closing Prayer

Director May the blessing of God, the giver of good and very perfect gift, and of Christ,
who summons us to service, and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity
and love, be with us all.

Choir Amen.

Amen by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Abendmusik Choir,³ Advent MMXX

Michael Murray, *Director and organist*
Ruth Enns, *Chair Abendmusik Committee, publicity*
Karen Thiessen, *Manager*
J. Evan Kreider, *prayers, programme notes, typist, librarian*
Grant Rowledge, *recording engineer*

Masked singers:

Greta Bartsch	John Kroeker
Celia Brogan	Christoph Schwarzbach
Maureen Bennington	Karen Thiessen
Lucia Eitzen	David Wallace
J. Evan Kreider	

³ The pre-COVID-19 choir normally included 24 singers.