

The Parish Church of All Saints, Peterborough



**A Service of Carols and Readings
on the First Sunday of Advent**

Sunday 29th November 2020 at 5.30 pm

First reading: Genesis 1: 1-5 And God said: let there be light

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Choir anthem: Lift Up Your Heads (Psalm 24: 7,3,4)

Antiphon:

Lift up! Lift up your heads, O ye gates!

And be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors.

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?

Or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands and a pure heart.

Stephen Hession (b.1960)

Opening Sentence

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.

Greeting The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The Bidding Prayer

We pray in silence, after which the president draws our prayers together in the words of the Advent Sunday collect

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**

Second Reading : Psalm 13

Hymn

Come thou long expected Jesus

Third Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

'The birth of Jesus is foretold'

Choir anthem

The Angel Gabriel

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail!' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady' Gloria!

For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name'
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria

Of her Immanuel, the Christ was born

In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady'. Gloria!

Music: Pettman

Fourth Reading: Baruch 4:36-5:9

Choir anthem People look east

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.

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.

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.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
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.

Fifth Reading:

Luke 12.35-40

Intercessions

Watchful at all times,
Let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our
Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognise him in the breaking of the bread,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the broken-hearted,
restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:

All Lord, have mercy.

