The Chapel of Hertford College, Oxford

Chapel at Home

Service of

Carols By Candlelight

Advent 2020
Welcome to our first Hertford College Chapel Remote Carol Service. In this extraordinary year, we are attempting to find new ways around the problems of self-isolation and COVID-19 restrictions, and Chapel at Home has been a means of connecting in community in spite of the limitations we face.

In recent days we have heard the sad news of the death of Derek Conran. Derek was a regular Chapel attendee, but in recent years was unable to join us for the College events he loved. A service such as this, which can be accessed wherever we are, would have been valued by Derek, and we trust, will be enjoyed by friends and alumni everywhere.

Christmas always unites past present, and future as we think of times past, enjoy the present, and look ahead to the coming year. So we honour our past by including vintage recordings from the late Dr Paul Coones and the late Professor David Daniell. We mark the present with our socially distanced, masked choir, and we look forward to meeting in person in Hertford College Chapel once again.

Our service follows the traditional pattern of the Advent wreath, its candles symbolising light in the darkness, bringing hope, peace, joy, and love, as we await the advent of Jesus, light of the world.

This year we need hope, peace, joy and love more than ever. We trust that through participating in the carols, in hearing the Christmas story, and by enjoying the music of the choir, you will experience something of all of these.

Our service runs without introduction. Congregational words and gestures are in Bold.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, be it this evening our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and 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 this Holy Child; and let us make this marquee glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and goodwill within the Church he came to build, and especially in the dominions of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, within this University and City of Oxford.

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 cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all 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 all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a
greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All

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.

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.

All: Amen.
First Candle: Hope

CHOIR: Matin Responsory

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, One with another, go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

(Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594)
Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.
And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
CAROL:

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: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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:

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:
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: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
    Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Second Candle: Peace

CAROL:

Solo verse:
Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

Choir only:
He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For he is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feelth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.
SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 11

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.
And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

**CHOIR: In Dulce Jubilo**

In dulci jubilo (quiet joy) Let us our homage shew; Our heart's joy reclineth In praesepio And like a bright star shineth Matris in gremio Alpha es et O!

O Jesu parvule, (tiny Jesus) I yearn for thee alway; Listen to my ditty O Puer optime, [best of boys] Have pity on me, pity O princeps gloriae! [prince of glory] Trahe me post te! [draw me after Thee]
O Patris caritas,
[love of the Father]
O Nati lenitas!
[gentleness of the Son]
Deeply were we stain'ed
[through our sins]
Per nostra crimina;
[through our sins]
But thou hast for us gain'ed
Coelorum gaudia.
[the joy of heaven]
O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia, where,
[where are joys]
If that they be not there?
There are angels singing Nova cantica,
[new songs]
There the bells are ringing In Regis curia:
[in the King's court]
O that we were there!

**Third candle: Joy**
CAROL:

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled;
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin’s womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

THIRD LESSON: Matthew 1

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise:

When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.
And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

**CHOIR: Gaudete Anon**

Gaudete, gaudete Christus est natus
Ex Maria virginae gaudete

Tempus ad est gratiae hoc quod optabamus
Carmina laetitiae devote redamus

Deus homo factus est naturam eraute
Mundus renovatus est a christo regnante

Ezecheclis porta clausa per transitor
Unde lux est orta sallus inventior
Ergo nostra coutio psallat jam in lustro  
Benedicat domino sallus regi nastro

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the virgin Mary, rejoice!

The time of grace has come. This is what we have desired; Verses of joy let us devoutly return.

God has become man, nature marvelling,  
The world has been renewed by the reigning Christ.

The closed gate of Ezechiel is passed through,  
Whence the fight is born, salvation is found.

Therefore let our gathering now sing in brightness, let it give praise to our King.

Fourth Candle: Love
CHOIR: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day. *Gardner*

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love,*
*O my love, my love, my love;*
*this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man’s nature,
to call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love…*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
so very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love…*

Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father’s voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance:
*Sing O my love…*
NINTH LESSON: John 1

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood,
nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**CAROL:**

O Come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of angels:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin’s womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created:
**Refrain**

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
Refrain

Lo, star-led chieftains, magi, Christ-adoring,
Offer Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ child bring our hearts’ oblations:
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
Refrain

FINAL BLESSING

The Chaplain, Reverend M A Smith

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Mary and Joseph, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.
We wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas

We thank you all for your support and generosity to Chapel and to College.

With thanks to:
The Organ Scholars, Andrew Liu & Will Jeys
Our Choral Clerks / soloists
The Chapel Choir, for your teamwork during a challenging and unpredictable term

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