

## Choral Evensong First Sunday of Advent

1 December 2024  
6.00pm



*Welcome to Liverpool Parish Church. All are welcome to take part as they feel called. Evensong, which combines the ancient monastic services of Vespers and Compline (evening and night prayer), and has been sung in Cathedrals and Parish Churches all over the country since the sixteenth century.*



*Organ: Improvisation on a Herefordshire Carol – Ian Tracey (born 1955)*

*Please stand, as you are able, as the clergy enter and the choir sings the Introit: Benedicta et venerabilis es sacra, Virgo Maria, quae, sine tacta pudoris inventa es mater salvatoris.*

[Blessed and venerable art thou, O Virgin Mary, who, without spot wast found the mother of the Saviour.]

*Words: Gradual for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*Music: William Byrd (1540-1623)*

**Priest:** Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

**All:** **Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy name. Amen.**

**Priest:** May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you ✠ pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The preces and responses are sung to a setting by Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)*

Cantor     O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir       And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

          O God, make speed to save us.

          O Lord, make haste to help us.

          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.

*Office hymn:*

**Lift up your heads ye mighty gates,  
Behold the King of glory waits,  
The King of kings is drawing near,  
The Saviour of the world is here.**

**O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ as ruler is confessed;  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this king in triumph comes.**

**Come then, O Saviour, and abide,  
Our hearts to thee be open wide;  
May all thy inward presence feel,  
To all thy grace and love reveal. Amen.**

*Words: George Weissel (1590-1635)*

*Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)*

*Music: 'Gonfalon Royal' Percy Buck (1871-1947)*

*Please sit as the choir sings Psalm 9.1-10:*

1 Will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart \* I will speak of  
all thy marvellous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee \* yea, my songs will I make of thy Name,  
O thou most Highest.

3 While mine enemies are driven back \* they shall fall and perish at thy  
presence.

4 For thou hast maintained my right and my cause \* thou art set in the throne that judgest right.

5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen, and destroyed the ungodly \* thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.

6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end \* even as the cities which thou hast destroyed, their memorial is perished with them.

7 But the Lord shall endure for ever \* he hath also prepared his seat for judgement.

8 For he shall judge the world in righteousness \* and minister true judgement unto the people.

9 The Lord also will be a defence for the oppressed \* even a refuge in due time of trouble.

10 And they that know thy Name will put their trust in thee \* for thou, Lord, hast never failed them that seek thee.

### **Old Testament Reading (Joel 3.9-end)**

*The choir sings the Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

*[we stand for the Gloria Patri]*

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.

*Music: Westminster Service—Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

### **New Testament Reading (Revelation 14.3-15.4)**

*The choir sings Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2.29-32)*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people  
Israel.

*[we stand for the Gloria Patri]*

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.

*Music: Westminster Service—Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

*Please remain standing to say the Apostles' Creed:*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by  
the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell;  
The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into  
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the  
dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

Cantor      The Lord be with you

Choir        And with thy spirit

Cantor      Let us pray.

*[please kneel or sit]*

Choir        Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

Cantor     O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
Choir       And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King  
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.  
Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.  
And make thy chosen people joyful.  
O Lord, save thy people.  
And bless thine inheritance.  
Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.  
O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*The Collect of the Day:*

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 thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

*The Second Collect, for Peace:*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils:*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The choir sings the Anthem:*

Lord, we beseech thee, give ear unto our prayers, and by thy gracious visitation lighten the darkness of our hearts, by our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen

*Words: Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Advent from the 1549 Book of Common Prayer*

*Music: Adrian Batten (1591-1637)*

*Sermon— Revd Michelle Montrose*

*Please kneel for the prayers:*

*The Grace:* **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*Please stand to sing the hymn during which a collection is taken:*

**Ye servants of the Lord,  
Each for your Master wait,  
Observant of his heavenly word,  
And watchful at his gate.**

**Let all your lamps be bright,  
And trim the golden flame;  
Gird up your loins, as in his sight,  
For awful is his name.**

**Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,  
And while we speak, he's near;  
Mark the first signal of his hand,  
And ready all appear.**

**O happy servant he,  
In such a posture found!  
He shall his Lord with rapture see,  
And be with honour crowned.**

**Christ shall the banquet spread  
With his own royal hand,  
And raise that faithful servant's head  
Amidst the angelic band.**

*Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-51)*

*Music: 'Narenza' Melody from Leisentritt's Catholicum Hymnologium Germanicum (1584). Adapted by W. H. Havergal (1793-1870) from Cöln Gesangbuch (1619)*

*The Blessing:*

... and the ✠blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Organ: 'Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland' BWV599 – Johann Sebastian Bach  
(Come, now, Saviour of the Gentiles) (1685-1750)*

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