



St Thomas'

Cathedral *Mumbai • Estd 1718*

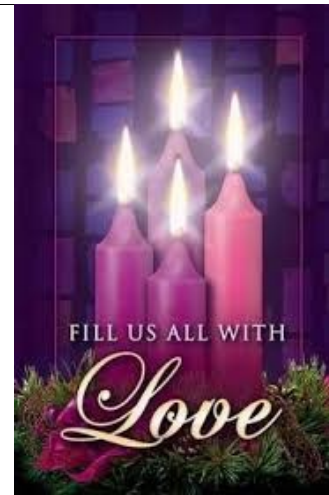
The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

A Service of Morning Prayer

Sunday December 20, 2020



Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent.. In the season of Advent (from the Latin, 'Adventus' for 'coming') we look back and look forward. We look back, remembering the story that leads to the birth of Jesus. We look forward to his coming again.

A candle is lit on each of the Sundays in Advent. This morning we light the candle of love. Today we remember the Blessed Virgin Mary. Scripture records her role in God's plan of salvation from the outset as the Mother of our Lord.

|The Preparation & Gathering|

Voluntary

'Behold, a Rose is Blooming'

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

All stand

The Opening Acclamation

Presbyter *'Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.*

Isaiah 7.14

People *Blessèd be God: † Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

And blessèd be His Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated

"Hark a thrilling voice is sounding"

Hymn

Follow the words as the Cantor sings.

1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day.'
2. Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiven;
4. that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Continued overleaf.

As per Government and Diocesan guidelines, you are requested to strictly adhere to the following:

- *Please cooperate with the Security as they carry out the mandatory checks before you enter.*
- *Make use of sanitizers kept at the entrance.*
- *Wearing of face covering is mandatory at all times.*
- *Maintain the distance as indicated by the positioning of the chairs.*
- *Use of books is not yet permitted. Carry your own Bible and access service bulletins on your phone.*
- *Leave as soon as the service is over. Please do not gather outside and talk.*

Presently administration of Holy Communion is not allowed. Until further instructions from the Bishop, the service will be that of Ministry of the Word. Familiarise yourself with the Diocesan advisory.

5. Honour, glory, might, dominion
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit
while eternal ages run.

Words: Latin, tr. E. Caswall (1814 - 78)
Music: W. H. Monk (1823 - 89)

The Advent Wreath

Reader Today we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.
God our Father,
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary
that she was to be the mother of your Son.
Though Mary was afraid,
she responded to your call with joy.
Grant that we who have seen your glory
may daily be renewed in your image
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

Response **Blessèd be God for ever.**

(The candle is lit.)

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Penitence and Confession

All say

**O God most holy and merciful,
we confess that we have sinned
against you and one another,
in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have not done.
Therefore we pray you to have mercy on us,
and forgive us our sins. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, grace to amend our life, and the strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Cantor sings

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christe eleison.

Christ have mercy on us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy on us.

All say the Lord's Prayer

OUR FATHER, who 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:
for Thine is the Kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

|The Ministry of the Word|

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

O LORD, raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

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 Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40: 1 – 10

COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid: say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat
The Song of Mary

Canticle
Sung by the Cantor

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath showed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat, :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things, :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

Gloria

The Epistle

Philippians 4.4-7

REJOICE in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Gradual

“Gabriel’s message”

Follow the words of the carol as the Cantor sings.

1. 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!*
2. "For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favoured lady," *Gloria!*
3. 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!*
4. Of her, Emmanuel, 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!*

Words: S. Baring-Gould (1834 - 1924)

Music: Basque carol, arr. David Willcocks

All stand

The Holy Gospel

St. John 1.19-28

When the Gospel is announced *all say* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

THIS is the record of John, when the Jews sent Priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that Prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that Prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not: he it is who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

All say **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Remain standing and recite together.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth:
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Please kneel as able or sit.

| The Prayers of the People |

Advent Prose *Sung by the Cantor*

Pour down, O heavens, from above and let the skies rain down righteousness.

You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know me and believe me. I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver, what my hand holds, none can snatch away.

Edited by Stephen Cleobury (1948 - 2019)

Prayers of Intercession

- Intercessor* 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.**
- Intercessor* That God may establish among the nations His sceptre of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord: **All Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord: **All Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* 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.**
- Intercessor* 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.**
- Intercessor* 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.**
- Intercessor* We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father: **All Lord, have mercy.**
- Intercessor* **Silence is kept.**
Almighty God,
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ
first came to seek and to save the lost;
so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work;
for he is now alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Advent Blessing *The Presbyter*

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory: And the blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

While seated, listen to the hymn as it is played.

"Come thou long-expected Jesus"

Hymn at the Closing

Follow the words of the carol as the Cantor sings.

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thy own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707 - 88)

Music: adapted from a melody by C. F. Witt • Tune: STUTTGART

Presbyter As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People In the name of Christ. Amen.

'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her' ('From heaven above I came')

J.S. Bach BWV 606 (1685 - 1750)

~~~ Prayer requests and Announcements ~~~

Your prayers are requested for:

- † the world at large. We pray for a renewed sense of hope as we await the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May this Season of Christmas be one of comfort and joy to all humanity at large.
- † the vaccine inoculations which have begun. Pray for those entrusted with this responsibility and for the health and well-being of all recipients.
- † all churches as they plan for services during Christmastide.
- † all senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for their well-being. Pray for all care providers.
- † all those in our community who are unable to be physically present at services. May we reach out to them in Christian fellowship.
- † St Paul's Church, Dombivli (*Tamil congregation*) and the Revd. Ananda Maharajan.
- † the Church of North India's Diocese of Patna and the Most Revd Dr P. P. Marandih (*former Moderator*).
- † the Church of South India's Diocese of Vellore and the Rt Revd Dr. Sharma Nithyanandam .
- † mission agencies and their ministry throughout the *Anglican Communion*, including the *Mothers' Union* (the *Women's Fellowship for Christian Service*) around the world.
- Please note the new weekday timings (provisional) when the Cathedral is open – 7AM to 3PM.
- Details about the Christmas services are displayed on the notice board and in this bulletin.
- Thank you for having contributed towards the diocesan initiative to help clergy and missionaries with provisions in our neighbouring dioceses in Maharashtra.
- We express our appreciation to all those who have generously given of their time and talent towards the recording of the carol service this year.

~~~ Birthdays this Week ~~~

May God bless you abundantly.

Gayatri Long (25), Raina Michyari (25)

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| <p>A Service of Lessons & Carols
Thursday December 24, 2020</p> | <p>This will be an online service broadcast on <i>YouTube</i> at 6PM.
Please subscribe to the Cathedral's <i>YouTube</i> channel.</p> |
| <p>The Cathedral will be open for private prayer through the day from 7AM to 8PM on Christmas Eve (December 24). The Presbyter will be in church to pray with you. Recorded carols will be played together with organ music.
<i>Please note there will be no Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve.</i></p> | |
| <p>The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
CHRISTMAS DAY
Friday December 25, 2020
9 AM</p> | <p>A service comprising of the Ministry of the Word: Readings from the Bible, a sermon and carols by cantors with organ music.
The Rt Revd Prakash Patole
(The Bishop of Bombay) will be the preacher.
<i>Please note there will be no Eucharist.</i></p> |

Bank details to make your online offering and payment for your membership

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ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

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Pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound will resume once the present situation improves.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE SHARE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN WITH A FRIEND.

Website <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>