

**Opening Hymn: On Jordan's bank**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
come then and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
and furnished for so great a guest!  
yea, let us each our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace our souls must fade,  
and wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,  
and make us rise, to fall no more;  
once more upon thy people shine,  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom, with the Father, we adore,  
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

*Winchester New 12 NEH*

**The Advent Wreath: Advent 2 – The Prophets**

People of God: be glad!  
Your God delights in you, giving you joy for sadness  
and turning the dark to light.  
Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save.

Let us pray:

God our Father,  
you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace.  
You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom.  
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
to share with those around us the good news of your power and love.  
We ask this through him who is the light coming into the world,  
the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**The Lucinarium: *See Order of Service***

**The Collect**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**The New Testament Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.  
My brothers and sisters, whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’;

and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’;

and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Romans 15: 4–13*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Junior Choir lead the singing of*

**The Gradual Hymn: Jubilate, everybody**

Jubilate, everybody, serve the Lord in all your ways,  
and come before his presence singing;  
enter now God’s courts with praise.

For the Lord our God is gracious,  
and the mercy everlasting.

Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!

*Repeat all*

*Fred Dunn (1907-79)*

**The Gospel**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia.**

*cf Isaiah 40: 3–5*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St Matthew 3: 1–12*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Creed:**

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn: Long ago, prophets knew**

Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew.  
Come to make all things new;  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
he will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human:

Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid,  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected:

Journey ends: where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.

Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!*

*Personent hodie 10 NEH*

**Communion Hymn: Purify my heart**

Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold and precious silver.  
Purify my heart,  
let me be as gold, pure gold.

*Refrain:*

Purify my heart,  
cleanse me from within and make me holy.  
Purify my heart,  
cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

*Refrain:*

*Refiner's fire,  
my heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for you, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for you, my Master,  
ready to do your will.*

*Purify 373 AM*

**The Anthem: Gabriel**

Gabriel brought good news to the shepherds, Gabriel brought a bundle of joy.  
Gabriel, wha's that your saying? Angel Gabriel, tell us one more time.  
Spell it out slowly, brother. Where have we to go now?  
Left at the lights, and take the first road on the right – right!

*Alan Simmons*

**Hymn: Hark! a herald voice is calling**

Hark! a herald voice is calling:  
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.

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;

so when next he comes in glory,  
and earth's final hour draws near,  
may he then as our defender  
on the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the co-eternal Spirit,  
while unending ages run. Amen.

*Merton 5 NEH*