



THE ADVENT PROCESSION WITH CAROLS

Sunday 30 November 2025 at 7.00pm

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Waiapu Cathedral of St John the Evangelist.

'Advent' means 'coming.' This service is to prepare us for the coming of Jesus' birth on Christmas Day, and his second coming in glory at the end of time.

During the service the Procession moves symbolically from West to East, towards the brightness of sunrise. As it does so, it expresses our desire to turn away from the darkness in which we are separated from God, and draw closer to the light, which is God. The movement of the Procession also reflects the expectant journey through the penitential season of Advent towards the glory of Christmas. The candlelight in the Procession, and the light which gradually fills the Cathedral, are reminders of the light of the presence of God with us.

In the 'O Antiphons' Jesus is invoked by various titles, mainly taken from the prophet Isaiah. The sequence progresses historically, from the beginning, before creation, to the very gates of Bethlehem.

The readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

The congregation is encouraged to gather quietly and prayerfully.

At the sound of the bell, the congregation stands.

THE INTROIT

The choir sings from the Baptistry:

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.

Matin Responsory, Advent Sunday

Richard Marlow

HYMN, *the congregation stands to sing the hymn, during which the procession moves to the back of the Nave.*

1

**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin birth:
Let ev'ry age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.**

2

**Forth from his chamber goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.**

3

**From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds;
His course he runs to death and hell,
Returning to God's throne to dwell.**

4

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine
serene
And twilight never intervene.**

5

**All laud, eternal Son, to thee
Whose Advent sets they people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen**

St. Ambrose, tr. J.M. Neale

VENI, REDEMPTOR GENTIUM, Traditional

The congregation remains standing for:

THE BIDDING PRAYER

As we await the great festival of Christmas, let us in this Advent season prepare the way for Jesus the Christ to come again into the hearts and minds of all people, in order that their lives may be transformed. Let us hear, in readings from scripture, how God's love is renewed at all times and in all places. Let us rejoice, through hymns and anthems, that the good purpose of God is being fulfilled even now in our own day. Let us celebrate God's faithfulness by rejoicing that the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the poor and marginalised receive the justice that is their due.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who do not have that peace which passes all understanding; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death, and for us gathered here tonight. We ask to be freed from all fear and to be given the joy of knowing the light and love of God.

We offer these prayers in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

The congregation sits.

I: THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT

The choir sings:

O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel,	<i>O Emmanuel (God with us)</i>
Rex et legifer noster,	<i>King and lawgiver</i>
Exspectatio Gentium,	<i>The expectation of the nations</i>
Et salvator earum:	<i>And their Saviour</i>
Veni ad salvandum nos	<i>Come to save us</i>
Domine, Deus noster.	<i>Lord, our God</i>

Eriks Esenvalds

SENTENCE

Priest: Watch then, for you know neither the day nor the hour
when the Son of Man will come.

All: The glory of the Lord will be revealed:
and all flesh will see it together.

COLLECT

Priest: God of hope,
when Christ your Son appears
may he not find us asleep or idle,
but active in your service and ready;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

O SAPIENTIA

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 11:1-5

The prophet speaks of the righteous Judge who will come from the line of David

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The choir sings:

Es ist Ein Ros' entsprungen

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen aus einer
Wurzel zart, wie uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art und hat ein
Blümlein 'bracht mitten im kalten
Winter, wohl zu der halben Nacht. Das
Röslein, das ich meine, davon Jesaja
sagt, hat uns gebracht alleine Marie,
die Reine, die uns das Blümlein bracht.

*A rose has sprung up from a tender root, as
the old ones sang to us, from Jesse came the
line and it brought forth a little flower in
the midst of cold winter right at midnight.
The little rose I mean, of which Isaiah spoke
was brought to us by Mary alone, the pure
one who bore the little flower for us.*

Michael Praetorius

O ADONAI

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 5: 1 –11

The call to be vigilant in preparation for the coming of the Lord

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

II: THE WORD OF GOD

SENTENCE

Priest: O people of Sion, behold the Lord is at hand to redeem the nations,
and in the gladness of your heart the Lord will cause his glorious voice
to be heard. Declare his honour to the nations:

All: **and his wonders to all people.**

COLLECT

Priest: God of the living word,
give us the faith to receive your message,
the wisdom to know what it means,
and the courage to put it into practice;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

HYMN, *during which the Clergy and Choir move to their Nave stalls.*

1

**Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.**

2

**He comes the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

Philip Doddridge

3

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
Enrich the humble poor.**

4

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.**

Bristol, From Thomas Ravenscroft's Psalmes

The congregation sits.

O RADIX JESSE

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

THIRD LESSON: MICAH 4: 1 – 4

The prophet's vision of the last days; the nations will be judged

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The choir sings:

O Radiant Dawn

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal
Light, Sun of Justice: Come, shine on
those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied,
The people who walked in darkness
have seen the great light upon those
who dwelt in the land of gloom a light
has shone. Amen

James MacMillan

O CLAVIS DAVID

*O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

FOURTH LESSON: LUKE 4:14-21

The words of the Prophet Isaiah are fulfilled by Jesus Christ

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

The choir sings:

The Lamb

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild,
He became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee

John Tavener

III: THE PROPHETIC CALL

SENTENCE

Priest: See, I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me.
Prepare the way of the Lord:
All: **make his paths straight.**

COLLECT

Priest: God for whom we wait and watch,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare for the coming of your Son;
give us courage to speak the truth
even to the point of suffering;
for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O ORIENS

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

FIFTH LESSON: MALACHI 3:1-6

The day of God's appearing brings judgement and cleansing

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

HYMN, *the congregation stands for the hymn:*

1

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending,
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! (x3)
God appears on earth to reign.**

2

**Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, (x3)
shall the true Messiah see.**

3

**Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers;
with what rapture, (x3)
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

4

**Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own;
O come quickly! (x3)
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

HELMSLEY, Melody noted by T. Oliver
Descant D. Cooper

The congregation sits.

O REX GENTIUM

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

SIXTH LESSON: MATTHEW 3:1-11

The proclamation of John the Baptist

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.

The choir sings:

Vox Clamantis

Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam
Domini:

rectas facite in solitudine semitas Dei
nostri.

Omnis vallis exaltabitur, et omnis
mons et collis humiliabitur;

et erunt prava in directa, et aspera in
vias planas.

Et revelabitur gloria Domini, et videbit
omnis caro pariter:

quod os Domini locutum est.

*A voice crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye
the way of the Lord:*

*make straight in the desert a path for our
God.*

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every
mountain and hill shall be made low;
and the crooked shall be 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.*

Jacob Handl

HYMN, during which the Procession moves to the Chancel.

1

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.**

3

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**

2

**Then cleansed be ev'ry breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come**

4

**To heal the sick stretch out thine
hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**

5

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose Advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for evermore.**

C. Coffin, tr. J. Chandler

WINCHESTER NEW

The congregation sits.

IV: THE CHRIST-BEARER

SENTENCE

Priest: See, a virgin will be with child, and will bring forth a son,
and they will call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is,
God with us.

Unto us a child is born:

All: **unto us a son is given.**

COLLECT

Priest: God of grace,
grant that Mary's obedience may inspire us to obey your will
and receive Jesus Christ in our hearts as Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever. **Amen.**

O EMMANUEL

*O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

SEVENTH LESSON: LUKE 1:26 – 38

The announcement of the birth of Jesus

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The choir sings:

A Hymn to the Virgin

Of one that is so fair and bright,
Velut maris stella,
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella:
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia,
That I may come to thee.
Maria!

All this world was forlorn,
Eva peccatrice,
Till our Lord was y-born
De te genetrice.
With ave it went away
Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis;
The well springeth out of thee,
Virtutis.

Lady, flower of everything,
Rose sine spina,
Thou bear Jesu, heaven's King,
Gratia divina:
Of all thou bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa:
Maid mild, mother es
Effecta.

Benjamin Britten

EIGHTH LESSON: JOHN 3: 1 – 8

Jesus speaks with Nicodemus of the birth from above

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

SENTENCE

Priest: Drop down, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness;
let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel:
All: **for he has visited and redeemed his people.**

HYMN, *the congregation stands for the hymn, during which a collection is taken, and the Procession moves to the altar.*

1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

3

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2

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;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

4

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;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

5

O come, O come thou Lord of Might!
Who to thy tribe, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Latin Advent Antiphons, tr. J.M. Neal

The congregation remains standing

THE COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

Priest: Almighty God,
give us grace to cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
so that when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits

The choir sings:

Videntes Stellam

Videntes stellam magi gavisii sunt
gaudio magno:
et intrantes domum,
invenerunt puerum, cum Maria, mater
eius,
et procidentes adoraverunt eum.
Et apertis thesauris suis,
obtulerunt ei munera:
aurum, thus et myrrham.

*Seeing the star, the magi rejoiced with
great joy;
and entering the house,
they found the boy, with Mary, His
mother,
and fell down and worshiped Him.
And having opened their treasures,
they offered Him gifts:
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Francis Poulenc

The congregation stands for

THE BLESSING

Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before
your path; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The choir sings:

THE CLOSING RESPONSORY

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed:
Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall the salvation of the Lord.
Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord, he will be with you.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord, he will be with you.

The Vesper Responsory of Christmas Eve

Giovanni da Palestrina arr. Ledger

The congregation remains standing as the procession withdraws.

Cathedral Upcoming Christmas Events

Saturday 20 Dec	5.00pm	Christmas Gala Concert
Sunday 21 Dec	7.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols service
Wednesday 24 Dec	6.00pm	All Age Christmas Play for families
Wednesday 24 Dec	11.00pm	Midnight Mass – the first Eucharist with Carols
Thursday 25 Dec	8.00am	Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols
Thursday 25 Dec	10.00am	Christmas Day Choral Eucharist
Thursday 25 Dec	9.00am	Christmas Day Family Eucharist at Ormond Chapel, Napier Terrace

CONTACT INFORMATION

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