

Sunday 18 December

4th Sunday of Advent

Processional Hymn

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley

Tune: BLAENWERN

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 7. 10 – 16 (OT p. 646)*

Psalm 80

The choir sings and all respond

Turn us again O Lord God

Turn us again O Lord God

Hear O thou Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation.

Turn us again O God; show the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.

Turn us again O Lord God

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

You feed them with the bread of tears;

you give them abundance of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again O God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Turn us again O Lord God

New Testament Reading *Romans 1. 1 – 7 (NT p. 147)*

Gradual Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith

Music: WOODLANDS

Gospel Reading *Matthew 1. 18 – end (NT p. 1)*

Offertory Hymn

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him
who brings good news, good news,
announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness:
our God reigns, our God reigns.

*Our God reigns, our God reigns
Our God reigns, our God reigns*

You watchmen, lift your voices joyfully as one,
shout for your King, your King!
See eye to eye, the Lord restoring Sion:
our God reigns, our God reigns.

Waste places of Jerusalem, break forth with joy!
We are redeemed, redeemed.
The Lord has saved and comforted his people:
our God reigns, our God reigns!

Ends of the earth, see the salvation of our God!
Jesus is Lord, is Lord!
Before the nations, he has bared his holy arm:
our God reigns, our God reigns.

Words and Music: Leonard E. Smith © 1974 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

*During Communion Ian Seddon plays O come, O come Emmanuel by Flor Peeters,
and the choir sings I sing of a maiden by Patrick Hadley*

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn.

Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.

*Make way, (Make way), Make way, (Make way),
for the King of kings (for the King of kings);
make way, (make way), make way, (make way),
and let his kingdom in!*

He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the pris'ners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him,
their thrones must fall!

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Organ Voluntary

Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme

Karg-Elert