

Compline : Night Prayer

Fourth Sunday of Advent

O Clavis David

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The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

From our cycle of prayer for this worshipping community: Tonight's Office Prayer is offered for

- the clergy and ministry team, church family, and community, of Christchurch Cathedral, in the Oxford Diocese
- and for the Birmingham Diocese

Lighting of the Advent Ring

Song

Mary's gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
in a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story?
- Cross and glory:
empty tomb!

Text: Revd. Mark Earey
Music: 'Angel Voices' Edwin George Monk
STF 165

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.

**Lord, make us one
as we walk with Christ
today and for ever
Amen.**

The 'O' Antiphons of Advent

O Key of David,
and sceptre of the house of Israel,
thou that openest and no one shuttest,
and shuttest, and no one openeth:
Come, and loose the prisoner
from the prison house,
and him that sitteth in darkness
from the shadow of death.

Sonnet by Fr. Malcolm Guite

Even in the darkness where I sit
And huddle in the midst of misery
I can remember freedom, but forget
That every lock must answer to a key,
That each dark clasp, sharp and intricate,
Must find a counter-clasp to meet its guard,
Particular, exact and intimate,
The clutch and catch that meshes with its ward.

I cry out for the key I threw away
That turned and over turned with certain touch
And with the lovely lifting of a latch
Opened my darkness to the light of day.
O come again, come quickly, set me free
Cut to the quick to fit, the master key.

From 'Waiting on the Word', Malcolm Guite,
Canterbury Press, Norwich, 2015

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night
and a perfect end.
Amen.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Words of sorrow, love, mercy and forgiveness....

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light
the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ,
Let us confess our sins...

Time of silence

Heavenly Father,
you exalted the humble and meek:
give us humble and contrite hearts.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus,
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:
be planted also in our hearts and lives.
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy

Holy Spirit,
you overshadowed Mary,
that she might become the Godbearer:
fill us with your heavenly gifts.
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

○ God make speed to save us.
○ Lord make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son,

**and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be.
World without end.
Amen. Alleluia.**

Hymn

For Mary, mother of our Lord,
God's holy Name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored
as on her Child she gazed.

The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ's mother be;
Our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly.

The heav'nly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
the second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.

Hail Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.

*Text: John Raphael Peacey, © the Revd. M J Hancock
Music: 'Saint Botolph' Gordon Slater
(HON New Anglican edition 136)*

Psalmody

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

Bless the Lord, O my soul.*
O Lord my God, how excellent is your
greatness!

You appointed the moon to mark the
seasons,*
and the sun knows the time for its setting.

You make the darkness that it may be night,*
in which all the beasts of the forest creep
forth.

The lions roar for their prey*
and seek their food from God.

The sun rises and they are gone*
to lay themselves down in their dens.

People go forth to their work*
and to their labour until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!*
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, spread far and wide,*
and there move creatures beyond number,
both small and great.

There go the ships,
and there is that Leviathan*
which you have made to play in the deep.

All of these look to you*
to give them their food in due season.

When you give it them, they gather it;*
you open your hand and they are filled with
good.

When you hide your face they are troubled;*
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit,
they are created,*
and you renew the face of the earth.

Psalm 104: 1, 21-33

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

Scripture reading

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 forever, 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.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

Luke 1 : 26-38

From the Anglican Eucharistic Lectionary for the day, NRSV

Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me,
Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend
my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye,
**Hide me under the shadow
of your wings.**

Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you
with a perfect heart.**

**Now, Lord,
you let your servant go in peace*
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation*
which you have prepared
in the sight of every people;**

**A light to reveal you to the nations*
and the glory of your people, Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever,
world without end. Amen**

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you
with a perfect heart.**

Intercession...

Bidding prayers will be offered...

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

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done
on 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.**

Blessing and departure

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in
safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
**for the night is at hand
and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ

**May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.**

Hail Mary...

Hail Mary, full of grace
the Lord is with thee
blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen**