***O Emmanuel, A Service for the Advent of Our God***

## 23 December 2020

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**The World Feels Dusty** (Song IV from *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson) (1950)*

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) - Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

The world feels dusty,

when we stop to die…

We want the dew then

Honors taste dry…

Flags vex a dying face

But the least fan

stirred by a friend's hand

Cools like the rain

Mine be the ministry

when thy thirst comes…

Dews of thyself to fetch

And holy balms.

***ADVENT PROSE – (Rorate Coeli, Isaiah 45:8 Vulgate)***

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,*

*and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

**BIDDING PRAYER**

Beloved in Christ, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ’s nativity as also for the Day when he shall come to judge the hearts of us all. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the vision of God’s perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God’s loving purposes for us.

In words and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the Scriptures, that God’s kingdom will come; and with the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming; the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ’s body, the Church.

Let us then pray for the coming of God’s kingdom, in the words that Christ himself taught us:

***Our Father, which 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. Amen.***

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

**O Come O Come Emmanuel (*Veni Emmanuel*)**

Thomas Helmore (1811-1890) (1851)

*Bone Jesu dulcis crunctis (anon. 15th C) –* John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

O come, O come, Emmanuel!  
Redeem thy captive Israel,  
that into exile drear is gone  
far from the face of God’s dear Son.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!

Who madest all in earth and sky,

Creating man from dust and clay:

To us reveal salvation’s way.

O come, O come, Adonai,  
who in thy glorious majesty  
from that high mountain clothed with awe  
gavest thy folk the elder law.

O come, thou branch of Jesse! Draw  
the quarry from the lion’s claw;  
from the dread cavern of the grave,  
from nether hell, thy people save.  
  
O come, thou Lord of David’s key!  
The royal door fling wide and free;  
safeguard for us the heavenward road,  
and bar the way to death’s abode.

O come, O come, thou dayspring bright!  
Pour on our souls thy healing light;  
dispel the long night’s lingering gloom,  
and pierce the shadows of the tomb.  
  
O come, desire of nations! Show

Thy kingly reign on earth below;   
Thou cornerstone, uniting all,   
Restore the ruin of our fall.   
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel...

1. **O Sapientia**

O Wisdom,

coming forth out of the mouth of the Most High,

filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth;

come and teach us the way of truth.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

### A Reading from Ecclesiasticus

I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist.  
I dwelt in the highest heavens,  
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.  
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven  
and traversed the depths of the abyss.  
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
and over every people and nation I have held sway.  
Among all these I sought a resting-place;  
in whose territory should I abide?   
‘Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.  
He said, “Make your dwelling in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance.”  
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,  
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. [Ecclesiasticus 24.3-9]

*Thanks be to God*

#### Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 – J. S. Bach (1685-1750) (before 1723)

Nu kom der Heyden heyland - Saviour of the nations, come

### O Adonai

O Lord of Lords,

ruler and deliverer of the house of Israel,

you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush,

and gave him the law on Sinai:

come with your outstretched arm and ransom us.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

**Touched by an Angel**

Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

We, unaccustomed to courage

exiles from delight

live coiled in shells of loneliness

until love leaves its high holy temple

and comes into our sight

to liberate us into life.

Love arrives

and in its train come ecstasies

old memories of pleasure

ancient histories of pain.

Yet if we are bold,

love strikes away the chains of fear

from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity

In the flush of love's light

we dare be brave

And suddenly we see

that love costs all we are

and will ever be.

Yet it is only love

which sets us free.

**The Truth from Above (*The Herefordshire Carol*)** (1909/1912)

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) – English Folk Carol

This is the truth sent from above

The truth of God, the God of love;

Therefore don't turn me from your door,

But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate,

Is That God did man create

The next thing which to you I tell,

Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then after this was God's own choice

To place them both in Paradise,

There to remain from evil free

Except they eat of such a tree.

But they did eat, which was a sin,

And thus their ruin did begin –

Ruin'ed themselves, both you and me,

And all of their posterity.

Thus we were as to endless woes,

Till God the Lord did interpose

And so a promise soon did run

That He would redeem us by His Son.

### O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse,

standing as a sign among the nations and a banner for the peoples;

kings will keep silence before you for whom the nations long;

come and save us and delay no longer.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

### A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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. [Isaiah 11.1-4a]

*Thanks be to God*

#### In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke (1888-1976), arr. – Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

In the bleak mid-winter

Frosty wind made moan;

Earth stood hard as iron,

Water like a stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow,

Snow on snow,

In the bleak mid-winter

Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him

Nor earth sustain,

Heaven and earth shall flee away

When He comes to reign:

In the bleak mid-winter

A stable-place sufficed

The Lord God Almighty –

Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim

Worship night and day,

A breastful of milk

And a mangerful of hay;

Enough for Him, whom Angels

Fall down before,

The ox and ass and camel

Which adore

*\*[not set] Angels and Archangels*

*May have gathered there,*

*Cherubim and seraphim*

*Thronged the air;*

*But only His Mother*

*In her maiden bliss*

*Worshipped the Beloved*

*With a kiss.*

What can I give Him,

Poor as I am? –

If I were a Shepherd

I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man

I would do my part, -

Yet what can I give Him, -

Give my heart.

### IV. O Clavis David

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;

you open, and none can shut, you shut and none can open:

come and free the captives from prison,

and break down the walls of death.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

**Descent**

Luci Shaw (b.1928)

*Down* he came from *Up*,

And *in* from *Out*,

and *here* from *there*.

A long leap

an incandescent fall

from magnificent

to naked, frail, small,

through space,

between stars,

into our chill night air,

shrunk, in infant grace,

to our damp, cramped

earthy place

among all

the shivering sheep.

And now, after all,

there he lies,

fast asleep.

**Quem pastores Laudavere**

Michael Praetorius – Hohenfurth Monastery Ms. 28 (1408)/*Musae Sioniae (1607)*

\*[to be sung in Latin] Whom of old the shepherds praised,

When the seraph them up-raised

Saying, "Sirs, be not amazed,

*Rex glorie, Rex glorie*

Unto whom the kings came faring

Gold and myrrh and incense bearing,

Love unfeighnedly declaring

*Leoni, victorie, victorie.*

Him with Mary bless, nor tire,

Chanting with th' angelic choir:

High uplift the strain, and higher,

*Laus, honoret gloria, et gloria.*

To the Christ-child, King of heaven

God, to man through Mary given,

Raise the lay from morn till even,

*Dulci cum melodia, melodia.*

**V. O Oriens**

O Morning Star,

Splendour of the Light Eternal and Bright Sun of Righteousness:

Come and bring light to those who dwell in darkness

and walk in the shadow of death.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

**A Reading from the Gospel of Luke**

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’ And Mary said,   
  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’ [Luke 1:39-55]

*Thanks be to God*

*A silence is kept*

**Ave Maria** (Méditation sur le Premier Prélude de Piano de J. S. Bach BWV 846) (1722/1853)

Charles Gounod (1818-1893) – [Jacques-Léopold Heugel 1859]

Ave Maria, gratia plena.

Maria, gratia plena

Maria, gratia plena

Ave, ave dominus,

Dominus tecum.

Benedicta tu in mulieribus,

Et Benedictus

Et Benedictus fructus ventris,

Ventris tui, Jesus.

Ave Maria.

Ave Maria, Mater Dei,

Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

Ora, ora pro nobis;

Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

Nunc et in hora mortis,

In hora mortis nostrae.

In hora. Mortis, mortis nostrae,

In hora mortis nostrae.

Ave Maria.

**Vl. O Rex Gentium**

O King of the Nations,

You alone can fulfil their desires;

Cornerstone, binding all together;

Come and save the creatures you fashioned from the dust of earth.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

**A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his

kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and

forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. [Isaiah 9.6-7]

*Thanks be to God.*

**Schlummert ein, ihr matten Augen** (from *Ich habe genug* BWV 82 Cantata Zum Festo) (1727)

J. S. Bach

[\*to be sung in German] Fall asleep, you tired eyes, fall gently and blissfully!

World, I'm not staying here anymore.

I have no part in you,

That could be good for the soul.

Here I have to build the misery,

But there, there I will see

Sweet peace, quiet rest.

### VII. O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel,

our King and Lawgiver,

the desire of nations and their Saviour:

come and save us, O Lord our God

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

**The Magi**

Louise Glück (b.1943)

Toward the world's end, through the bare

beginnings of winter, they are traveling

again.

How many winters have we seen it happen,

watched the same sign come forward as

they pass

cities sprung around this route their gold

Engraved on the desert, and yet

Held our peace, these

Being the Wise, come to see at the

accustomed hour

Nothing changed: roofs, the barn

Blazing in darkness, all they wish to see.

**O Magnum Mysterium** (1994)

Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

*Silent Prayer*

### Advent Collect

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to 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;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

***Blessing***

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
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, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

Sure On This Shining Night (from Four Songs Op. 13. No 3) (1938)

Samuel Barber (1910-1981) – James Agee (1909-1955)

Sure on this shining night

Of star made shadows round,

Kindness must watch for me

This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.

All is healed, all is health.

High summer holds the earth.

Hearts all whole.

Sure on the shining night

I weep for wonder

Wandering far alone

Of shadows on the stars.

#### Postlude

#### Meine Seele erhebet den Herren (Fuga sopra il Magnificat), BWV 733 – J. S. Bach (possibly with/by Johann Ludwig Krebs 1713-1780) (date of composition unknown)