

The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

# The Advent Sequence

*Words and music for the Advent season*



6.15pm  
Sunday 30 November 2025

## Introduction

In this service, through music and readings, darkness and light, we enter into the mystery of Advent, contemplating the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the manger of Bethlehem, in our lives today, and at the end of all things.

The great theme of Advent is hope.

In this service, we stand for the hymns and sit for the choir carols and readings.

You are warmly invited to stay after the service for refreshments and fellowships in the Parish Rooms.

‘Come, my breath and my life.

Come, the consolation  
of my humble soul.

Come, my joy, my glory,  
my endless delight.’

St Symeon the New Theologian

## Choir

Advent Prose  
Traditional

## Processional hymn

*Please stand.*

26 Come thou, Redeemer of the earth  
(Omit \* starred verses)

## Bidding Prayer

*Please remain standing.*

*The priest reads the Bidding Prayer, concluding with the 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.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## Choir

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
Arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

## Reading

Isaiah 40.1–8, 11

*The prophet Isaiah announces comfort to God's people*

## Choir

Softly  
W. Todd (1970–)

## Reading

‘The Darkling Thrush’  
Thomas Hardy (1840–1928)

## Choir

Alma Redemptoris Mater  
G. P. Palestrina (1525–94)

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the accessible gateway to heaven,  
and star of the sea, give aid to a falling people that strives to rise; O thou who begot  
thy holy Creator, while all nature marvelled, Virgin before and after receiving that  
‘Ave’ from the mouth of Gabriel, have mercy on sinners.*

## Congregational carol

*Please stand.*

21 This is the truth sent from above

*Please sit.*

## Reading

Malachi 3.1–4  
*The prophet Malachi foretells the coming of God’s messenger*

## Choir

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree  
E. Poston (1905–87)

## Reading

Wisdom 18.14–16  
*The all-powerful Word leapt from Heaven*

## Congregational carol

*Please stand.*

12 Longing for light, we wait in darkness

*Please sit.*

### Reading

Hebrews 10.5–10

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me*

### Choir

‘Bogoroditse Dyevo’ from *All-Night Vigil*

S. Rachmaninov (1873–1943)

*Rejoice, O virgin mother of God, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast borne the saviour of our souls.*

### Reading

‘Annunciation’

Denise Levertov (1923–97)

### Choir

Drop down ye heavens from above

Anna Lapwood (1995–)

# Prayers

*Prayers are said, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.*

**All** 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 those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## Congregational carol

*Please stand.*

11 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

*Please remain standing.*

## The 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 upon you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

## Voluntary

*An organ voluntary is played. When the ministers leave the church, please sit.*

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel  
Andrew Carter (1939–)

# Christmas 2025

## in the Parish of St Paul, Wokingham and St Nicholas, Emmbrook

---

### Sunday 21 December

6.15pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Paul's
--------	-------------------------	-----------

### Christmas Eve (24 December)

3pm	Christingle Service	St Paul's
5pm	Christingle Service	St Paul's
9pm	First Mass of Christmas	St Nicholas'
11pm	Midnight Mass <i>(with Choir Carols from 10.30pm)</i>	St Paul's

### Christmas Day (25 December)

8am	Mass (traditional language)	St Paul's
9.30am	All-Together Mass	St Paul's

---

For details of forthcoming events and information on anything to do with the life of the church, please check our website [www.spauls.org.uk](http://www.spauls.org.uk), 'Like' us on Facebook or ring the Parish Office on 0118 979 2122.

*spauls.co.uk*