



The Service of Compline
during Advent

Welcome to Compline in this period of Advent.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote 'Life in a prison cell reminds me of Advent – one waits and hopes, potters about, but in the end what we do is of little consequence, for the door is shut, and, it can only be opened from the outside.' It seems a strange analogy but Advent, by its very name, is a time of watching and waiting in expectation of the door being opened, not by a prison guard, but by the Saviour, the Word which leapt from heaven.

From 17th December, the week before Christmas, we enter a period of time when we reflect on the seven 'O's'. These originate in Old Testament scripture and you will probably recognise them as the verses of the ancient Advent hymn 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'. They are included at the back of this booklet so you can reflect on them during Advent.

'Compline' is the ancient 'office' with which monastic communities end their day of prayer. The word 'Compline' comes from the Latin 'Completorium' which means completion, so the day is complete when this time of prayer is offered.

To help translate this worship to Zoom, an officiant will lead us through the service and our corporate responses will be led by one person. Our own microphones are muted but please do join in with everything in bold with other members of your household too as we pray together

You will find the psalm towards the back of this booklet and the page numbers are given. If you are following this electronically, you will find links to the psalms within this booklet too. If you are following on paper, then you'll find instructions on which page to turn to.

The Blessing of the Light

The officiant greets the assembled

Look towards the East, O Jerusalem
All **and see the glory that is coming from God.**

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

The officiant lights the candle and an introit is sung

The officiant continues

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All **who made heaven and earth.**

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

All **Holy God,
we confess to you
before the company of the faithful in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned against you,
against one another
and against your creation.
Forgive us in your mercy
help us to forgive each other
and to hold in reverence all that you have made.
Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.
All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All **Glory 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. Amen. Alleluia.**

The Word of God

Psalmody

Tuesday 1 December:	Click here or turn to page 9
Thursday 3 December:	Click here or turn to page 10
Tuesday 8 December:	Click here or turn to page 11
<i>The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	
Thursday 10 December:	Click here or turn to page 13
Tuesday 15 December:	Click here or turn to page 14
Thursday 17 December:	Click here or turn to page 15
<i>O Sapientia – O Wisdom</i>	
Tuesday 22 December:	Click here or turn to page 16
<i>O Rex Gentium – O King of the nations</i>	

A scripture reading follows

Scripture Reading

Tuesday 1 December:	Baruch 4.36 – 5.9
Thursday 3 December:	Isaiah 45. 1-8
Tuesday 8 December:	Luke 2. 26-38
<i>The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	
Thursday 10 December:	Isaiah 30. 1-11
Tuesday 15 December:	Isaiah 40. 21-end
Thursday 17 December:	Wisdom 9. 9-end
<i>O Sapientia – O Wisdom</i>	
Tuesday 22 December:	Micah 5. 2-5
<i>O Rex Gentium – O King of the nations</i>	

Responsory

The following responsory is said

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

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
All **I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

Gospel Cantic

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

This response is used except on Tuesday 8th December

**All Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
let us rejoice before you with a pure heart.**

on Tuesday 8th December

[Blessed are you, Mary, for you believed that what was said to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.]

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

**All 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.

Luke 2.29-32

**All Glory 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. Amen.**

**All Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
let us rejoice before you with a pure heart.**

on Tuesday 8th December

[Blessed are you, Mary, for you believed that what was said to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.]

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence is kept. One of the following collects is said.

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evil be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen life.

All **Amen.**

Stir up your power, O God,
and come among us.
Heal our wounds,
calm our fears and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said.

All **Our Father, who 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.**

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**
As the night watch looks for the morning,
All **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Restore us again, O God of hosts.
Show us the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.
Bless and keep us this night and always.

The Officiant gives the blessing.

May the power of the Redeemer
keep you watchful and faithful,
as you await his coming in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you
this night and always.
All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalms

Tuesday 1 December

Psalm 13

How long will you forget me, O Lord; for ever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

**How long shall I have anguish in my soul
and grief in my heart, day after day?
How long shall my enemy triumph over me?**

Look upon me and answer, O Lord my God;
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

**Lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed against him,'
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.**

But I put my trust in your steadfast love;
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.

**I will sing to the Lord,
for he has dealt so bountifully with me.**

All **Glory 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. Amen.**

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Thursday 3 December

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

**For he has founded it upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?'

**'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;**

'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

**Such is the company of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is the King of glory?'

**'The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'**

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is this King of glory?'

'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

All **Glory 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. Amen.**

Tuesday 8 December

Psalm 33

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
for it is good for the just to sing praises.

**Praise the Lord with the lyre;
on the ten-stringed harp sing his praise.**

Sing for him a new song;
play skilfully, with shouts of praise.

**For the word of the Lord is true
and all his works are sure.**

He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the loving-kindness of the Lord.

**By the word of the Lord were the heavens made
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.**

He gathers up the waters of the sea as in a waterskin
and lays up the deep in his treasury.

**Let all the earth fear the Lord;
stand in awe of him, all who dwell in the world.**

For he spoke, and it was done;
he commanded, and it stood fast.

**The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to naught;
he frustrates the designs of the peoples.**

But the counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever
and the designs of his heart from generation to generation.

**Happy the nation whose God is the Lord
and the people he has chosen for his own.**

The Lord looks down from heaven
and beholds all the children of earth.

**From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze
on all who dwell on the earth.**

He fashions all the hearts of them
and understands all their works.

**No king is saved by the might of his host;
no warrior delivered by his great strength.**

A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
for all its strength it cannot save.

**Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him,
on those who wait in hope for his steadfast love,**

To deliver their soul from death
and to feed them in time of famine.

**Our soul waits longingly for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.**

Indeed, our heart rejoices in him;
in his holy name have we put our trust.

**Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us,
as we have set our hope on you.**

All **Glory 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. Amen.**

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Thursday 10 December

Psalm 11

In the Lord have I taken refuge;
how then can you say to me, 'Flee like a bird to the hills,

**'For see how the wicked bend the bow
and fit their arrows to the string,
to shoot from the shadows at the true of heart.**

'When the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?'

**The Lord is in his holy temple;
the Lord's throne is in heaven.**

His eyes behold,
his eyelids try every mortal being.

**The Lord tries the righteous as well as the wicked,
but those who delight in violence his soul abhors.**

Upon the wicked he shall rain coals of fire and burning sulphur;
scorching wind shall be their portion to drink.

**For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds,
and those who are upright shall behold his face.**

All **Glory 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. Amen.**

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Tuesday 15 December

Psalm 12

Help me, Lord, for no one godly is left;
the faithful have vanished from the whole human race.

**They all speak falsely with their neighbour;
they flatter with their lips, but speak from a double heart.**

O that the Lord would cut off all flattering lips
and the tongue that speaks proud boasts!

**Those who say, 'With our tongue will we prevail;
our lips we will use; who is lord over us?'**

'Because of the oppression of the needy,
and the groaning of the poor,
I will rise up now,' says the Lord,
'and set them in the safety that they long for.'

**The words of the Lord are pure words,
like silver refined in the furnace
and purified seven times in the fire.**

You, O Lord, will watch over us
and guard us from this generation for ever.

**The wicked strut on every side,
when what is vile is exalted by the whole human race.**

All **Glory 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. Amen.**

Thursday 17 December

Psalm 63

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul is athirst for you.

**My flesh also faints for you,
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.**

So would I gaze upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.

**Your loving-kindness is better than life itself
and so my lips shall praise you.**

I will bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.

**My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,**

When I remember you upon my bed
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

**For you have been my helper
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.**

My soul clings to you;
your right hand shall hold me fast.

**But those who seek my soul to destroy it
shall go down to the depths of the earth;**

Let them fall by the edge of the sword
and become a portion for jackals.

**But the king shall rejoice in God;
all those who swear by him shall be glad,
for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.**

All **Glory 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. Amen.**

Tuesday 22 December

Psalm 118. 19-end

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

**This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

**This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Come, O Lord, and save us we pray.
Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.**

The Lord is God; he has given us light;
link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.

**You are my God and I will thank you;
you are my God and I will exalt you.**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.

All **Glory 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. Amen.**

The great Advent antiphons have been in use in English liturgy in England since the mediaeval 'Sarum Rite', and they reference Old Testament scripture. They are traditionally used as antiphons or refrains, before and after the Magnificat at Evening Prayer. Importantly, they address God directly and ask for God's redemption.

17 December – 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.

cf Ecclesiasticus 24.3; Wisdom 8.1

18 December – 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.

cf Exodus 3.2; 24.12

19 December – 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.

cf Isaiah 11.10; 45.14; 52.15; Romans 15.12

20 December – 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.

cf Isaiah 22.22; 42.7

21 December – 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.

cf Malachi 4.2

22 December – 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.

cf Isaiah 28.16; Ephesians 2.14

23 December – 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.

cf Isaiah 7.14