

Available on YouTube during the Advent Season Go to www.allsaintsnh.org for the link

The Season of Advent

Advent is, with Easter and Christmas, the season that most speaks to our contemporary human condition. It is a season that has long been symbolized by the lighting of the candles of an Advent wreath representing the four weeks of the Advent season and culminating in the lighting of the fifth principal candle at Christmas. No doubt this tradition reaches back into our Jewish past



and the Feast of Lights at Hanukkah, and has been popular within Christian celebrations particularly in Germany and Scandinavian countries down the centuries. Today the Advent wreath has become a universal symbol, to be found in many households as well as in churches. The lighting of a candle reminds us that though we live in a dark world, at the heart of the Christian Gospel is a message of hope. Flickering and fragile though the light of a candle may be yet the flame of such a candle lights up a dark room. It represents that Light of the World which illuminates our world and our lives with its transforming radiance which guides us into all truth. It is in the belief that God is with us even in the darkness.

Our world is dark — despite our human ingenuity and inventiveness — and our lives are dark as well, but year by year we light a candle in a dark room, as a sacramental affirmation that God has already lit a candle in our dark world. That light of the world has a name – his name is Jesus. 'That light was the true light that enlightens everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome it'.

-The Rev. Canon Jeremy Davies, Precentor (Retired) The Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Salisbury



how the Advent Lections came to All Saints'

For a third of a century, it has been our tradition at All Saints' to offer The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the Fourth Sunday of Advent to 'ring in' Christmas. With glorious carol settings sung by the All Saints' Choir, iconic carols sung by the congregation, and the familiar stories of the Annunciation, the

journey to Bethlehem, the birth of the Christ Child, the visitation by angels and shepherds, and the adoration of the Magi, followed by a festive reception, Christmas Lessons and Carols was our parish offering to Peterborough and the surrounding Monadnock community.

Alas, in the midst of the COVD-19 pandemic, a beloved tradition had to be broken this year. It has not been safe for the choir to sing together since March, nor has it been safe to hold in-person services, let alone gather indoors for a large reception. This year we have chosen instead to offer The Advent Lections, a service of lessons and carols based on the Great 'O' Antiphons (see below), which can be viewed throughout the Advent season on YouTube. The Advent Lections was built from 31 separate video sessions, none with more than five socially-distanced people in the church at a time, with the participation of every choir member and all the clergy and associate clergy in the parish. In keeping with the season, it is a quiet service of preparation; may its words and music propel you toward the true joys of Christmas.

About the Great 'O' Antiphons

The Great 'O' Antiphons are among the richest treasures of Advent. These seven ancient prayers—collected in Rome by the eighth century, though some portions may be centuries older—are simple in form: after addressing God in Christ with a striking Messianic title drawn from Israel's prophetic writings, each describes a gracious act of God and offers a petition apropos to its description of Christ. In seven different but interrelated ways they voice the ultimate Advent petition: "Come, Lord Jesus."



The Advent Lections

An Order of Service to accompany the YouTube Video posted November 29, 2020

The Tower Bells

Conditor alme siderum

MUSIC: Mode IV, 10th c. carol arranged by Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

The Advent Prose

Antiphon: Drop down dew, O heavens from above, and let the clouds rain down the Holy One.

Verse: Be not angry, O Lord, and remember no longer our iniquity: behold the city of the Holy One is become a desert: Sion is become a wilderness: Jerusalem is desolate: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised you. *Antiphon*.

Verse: Behold, O Lord, the affliction of your people, and send forth Him Who is to come: send forth the Lamb, the ruler of the earth, from the Rock of the desert, to the mount of daughter Sion: that He may take away the yoke of our captivity. *Antiphon*.

Verse: Be comforted, be comforted, my people; your salvation will suddenly come: why are you consumed with sadness? why has sorrow seized you? Fear not, for I will save you: for I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Redeemer. Antiphon.

MUSIC: Mode I, adapted by Jeffrey L. Fuller (b. 1947) TEXT: *Rorate cæli*, 17rh c. French responsory (based on Isaiah 45:8)

The Blessing of the Light

- V: The Lord is my light and my salvation:
- R: Our God shall change the darkness to light.
- V: Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night: to you be praise and glory for ever. As darkness falls you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence.
- R: By the light of Christ, your living Word, dispel the darkness of our hearts that we may walk as children of light and sing your praise throughout the world.
- V: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
- R: Blessed be God for ever.

The first candle on the Advent wreath is lighted.



The Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God:

In this season of Advent we come to worship the one who is our Judge, our Redeemer and our Guide. He is our loving God, who created our world and the far reaches of the galaxy; who said "Let there be light," and light shone forth, in order that all things might reflect the glory of his presence.

Let us pray:

Loving Father, the light of your glorious sunshine has too often been hidden by the clouds of our sin — your love we have turned to lust, your beauty to ugliness and what you had made possible we have rendered impossible. But in the disgrace we have made of your world your grace still shines. With all its fragile beauty your light remains a constant in our lives for your love never fails, brightening our days, casting our shadows behind us and guiding us into the new life that you have prepared for us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are God's light in the world, and you have come among us to illuminate our path and show us the true and living way into the Father's presence. Once again your flickering light has been placed in our hands to cradle and care for, as once your Virgin Mother cradled you. May the light of the world shining in our hearts be our care and delight as we share your radiance with others. In Christ's light may we be blessed and may we bless others even in the darkest corners of the world.

O Holy Spirit of God, kindle your fire of love in our hearts. That flame sees through us and reveals us as we are but may it also heal us so that renewed in love and joy and peace we may shine as Christ's light in the world, and serve his people in the Father's name, for you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are our God for ever and ever. *Amen*.

TEXT: The Rev. Canon Jeremy Davies, Precentor (Retired) The Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Salisbury)

A Collect for Advent

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Grace

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*



Antiphon: O WISDOM, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of understanding.

Lesson: Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 24:1-8

Sirach speaks prophetically of Wisdom emanating from the Most High God

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: '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."

Organ Voluntary

O Sapientia from 'O Antiphon Preludes' (2010)

MUSIC: Nico Muhly (b. 1981)

Collect

Lord God, fill our hearts with your love and our minds with your wisdom so that our actions will be pleasing to you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*





Antiphon: O ADONAI and Ruler of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Lesson: Isaiah 45: 1a, 2-8

The prophet foretells a Messiah who will bring salvation and righteousness

Thus says the LORD to his anointed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things. Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the LORD have created it.

Carol

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall flourish out of the earth: and righteousness hath looked down from heaven. Alleluia!

> MUSIC: Heathcote Statham (1889-1973) TEXT: Isaiah 45:8; Psalm 85:10-11

Collect

Lord God, fill our hearts with zeal and our minds with saving knowledge of your way so that our actions will be pleasing to you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*





Antiphon: O ROOT OF JESSE, standing as a sign before the people; before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-6

The prophet foretells the coming of God's kingdom

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Carol

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung. Of Jesse's lineage coming as those of old have sung. It came a flowret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. This flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor our darkness everywhere. True flesh, yet very God, from sin and death now saves us and shares our every load.

MUSIC: Tune, *Anonymous; s*etting by Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

TEXT: 15th c. German, Anonymous

Trans. by Theodore Baker (1851-1934)

Collect

Lord God, fill our hearts with love for all nations and our minds with understanding to serve them so that our actions will be pleasing to you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through your Holy Spirit. *Amen*.





Antiphon: O KEY OF DAVID and Scepter of the House of Israel; you open and none can close; you close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners, who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

Lesson: Baruch 4:36-5:9

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Carol

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us. The shout of rampart guards surrounds us. "Awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight's peace their cry has broken; their urgent summons clearly spoken: "The time has come, O maidens wise! Rise up, and give us light! The Bridegroom is in sight, Alleluia! Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share."

MUSIC: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) TEXT: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

Collect

Lord God, fill our hearts with love for one another and our minds with wise counsel so that our actions will be pleasing to you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*





Antiphon: O MORNING STAR, Splendor of Light everlasting: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Lesson: Jeremiah 23:5-6

The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Carol

Conditor alme siderum Æterna lux credentium, Christe, redemptor omnium Exaudi preces supplicum.

Qui condolens interitu, Mortis perire sæculum Salvasti mundum languidum, Sonans reis remedium.

Vergente mundi vespere Uti sponsus de thalamo, Egressus honestissima Virginis matris clausula.

Cujus forti potentiæ Genu curvatur omnia Cælestia, terrestria, Nutu fatentur subdita.

Te, Sancte, fide quæsumus, Venture judex sæculi, Conserva nos in tempore Hostis a telo perfidi. Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting Light; Jesu, Redeemer, of us all, Hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving that the ancient curse Should doom to death a universe, Didst come to save our fallen race By healing gifts of heavenly grace.

When earth was near its evening hour, Thou didst in love's redeeming power Like bridegroom from his chamber, come Forth from his virgin-mother's womb.

At thy great Name, exalted now, All knees must bend, all hearts must bow; And things celestial thou shall own, And things terrestrial, Lord alone.

To Thee, O Holy One, we pray, Our judge in that tremendous day, Preserve us, while we dwell below, From ev'ry insult of our foe.

> MUSIC: Guillaume Dufay (1397-1474) TEXT: Conditor alme siderum (10th c.)

Collect

Lord God, fill our hearts with mercy and our minds with discernment so that our actions will be pleasing to you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*





Antiphon: O KING OF NATIONS, the Ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people: Come and save the human race, whom you formed out of clay.

Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Carol

O Bethlehem! See your glory shines so brightly, O Bethlehem. You are raised up with favor divine, you are chosen, yours the favor, chosen of God to cradle the Savior, O Bethlehem! O Bethlehem! Here at last we see the Promised One, O Bethlehem. Let us give praise with joyful hearts. He has opened heav'n before us, come let us join the heavenly chorus, O Bethlehem! O Bethlehem! Now with the shepherds we, too, worship, O Bethlehem. He who made the heaven and earth, wondrous birth, the Lord of all, born a child in manger stall, O Bethlehem!

MUSIC: O Betleem (Basque Carol); Setting by Carl Schalk (b. 1929) TEXT: Carl Schalk

Collect

Lord God, fill our hearts with hope and our minds with welcome for your restoring grace so that our actions will be pleasing to you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*





Antiphon: O EMMANUEL, our King and our Lord, the Anointed of the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Lesson: Isaiah 33:20-22, 7:14-15

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as *God with us*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Carol

Veni, veni, Emanuel: Captivum solve Israel. Qui gemit in exilio Privatus Dei Filio Gaude! Gaude! Emanuel,. Nascetur pro te Israel

Veni, O Sapientia, Quae hic dispones pmnia, Veni, viam prudentiæ Ut doceas et gloriæ. Gaude...

Veni, veni, Adonai, Qui populo in Sinai Legem dedisti versice In maiestate gloria. Gaude...

Veni, O Jesse Virgulo: Ex hostis tuos ungula De specu tuos tartari, Educ et antro Israel. Gaude...

Veni, Clavis Davidica; Regna reclude celica; Fa citer tutum supernum, Et claude vias inferum. Gaude... O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lowly exile here, Until the Son of god appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things, far and nigh, To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go; Rejoice...

O come. Adonai, Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height, In ancient times didst give the law In cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice...

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save, And give the victory o'er the grave. Rejoice...

O come, Thou Key of David, come And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Rejoice...





Veni, veni, O Oriens; Solare nos adveniens; Nocis depelle nebulas, Dirasque noctis tenebras. Gaude...

Veni, veni, Rex Gentium; Veni, Redemptor omnium, Ut salves tuos famulos Peccati sibi conscios. Gaude...

Veni, veni, Emanuel: Captivum solve Israel. Qui gemit in exilio Privatus Dei Filio Gaude... Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice...

O come, Thou King of Nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease. Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice...

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lowly exile here, Until the Son of god appear. Rejoice...

MUSIC: *Veni, Emmanuel* (13th c. plainsong) TEXT: 13th c. (based on the Great 'O' antiphons)

Collect

Lord God, fill our hearts with joy and our minds with perception of your presence so that our actions will be pleasing to you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through your Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



A Vesper Responsory

- V. Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed.
- R. Tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
- V. Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
- R. Tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
- V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
- R. Tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
- V. We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord,
- R. In the midst of thy temple.

MUSIC: Zachary Wadsworth (b. 1983) TEXT: Office of Mattins, medieval Roman rite

A Second Collect for Advent

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of your coming: grant that we, who with joy receive your only begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even your Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen*.

The Advent Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen*.

May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen*.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen*.

The Tower Bells

Veni, veni Emmanuel

MUSIC: 13th c. plainsong arranged by Jeffrey L. Fuller

Participating in The Advent Lections

Officiants

The Rev. Jamie L. Hamilton, Rector The Rev. Sandi Albom, Priest Associate

Lectors

The First Lesson: Bradford Taylor
The Second Lesson: Marcia Lehman
The Third Lesson: Rod Falby
The Fourth Lesson: Christine Howe
The Fifth Lesson: Kathryn Dodge
The Sixth Lesson: Lauron Lewis
The Seventh Lesson: Diana V. Mundy

Intercessors

The First Collect: The Rev. R. Cassius L. Webb
The Second Collect: The Rev. Anne S.N. Webb
The Third Collect: The Rev. Sanford R. Johnson
The Fourth Collect: The Rev. Louise Howlett
The Fifth Collect: The Rev. Jep Streit
The Sixth Collect: The Rev. Mark H. Hatch
The Seventh Collect: The Rev. Elizabeth Fowle

Musicians

The Tower Bells: Arthur Eldredge, Jr., carilloneur The Advent Prose: Rick Simpson, tenor

Antiphons: Paul Freeman, Steve Smillie, Winnie Skeates, Walter Ulrich, cantors
'O Sapientia,' O Antiphon Preludes: Jeffrey L. Fuller, organist
Drop Down, ye heavens: Emma Hamlin and Winnie Skeates, sopranos
As those of old have sung: Laurie Lewis, alto; Steve Smillie, bass-baritone
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme: Rick Simpson and Walter Ulrich, tenors
O Bethlehem: Winnie Skeates, soprano; Rick Simpson, tenor; Steve Smillie, bass-baritone

Conditor alme siderum, Jody Simpson, mezzo-soprano;

Paul Freeman, tenor; Sarah Kendall, bass violist

Veni, veni, Emmanuel: Laura Campbell and Laurie Lewis, altos;
Arthur Eldredge and Marilyn Weir, handbell ringers

Vesper Responsory: Paul Freeman, precentor; Pam Everson, alto; Walter Ulrich, tenor, Alan Everson, bass-baritone

Jeffrey L. Fuller, Organist and Choirmaster

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Conditor alme siderum (Carillon)

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The Advent Prose

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Music: Rorate cali plainsong, Mode V, Liber usualis. Adapted by Jeffrey L. Fuller. © 2020

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Drop down, ye heavens,

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As Those of Old Have Sung

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Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

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O Bethlehem

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Conditor alme siderum

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Veni, veni, Emmanuel

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Vesper Responsory

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Veni, veni, Emmanuel (Carillon)

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