

Prelude Music

The priest then lights the Candles of Hope and Peace, singing

People: Thanks be to God!

All: we light this candle as reminders of the light of hope and peace brought to us in Jesus. May we who are caught in the jaws of the world's evils, trust you to save us from being consumed. Give us peace in our hearts and in our world. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: (Tune #122) - “OPEN WIDE YOUR HEAVENS”


Open wide your heavens! Let your name be known!
So the world will know, Lord, we are not alone.
You, our God Almighty, show your presence here
Open wide your heavens, show us you are near.

In this Advent season, Lord, we wait and pray:
Why do you seem hidden? Are you far away?
Though you're always faithful, we have often sinned;
Like the leaves we're fading, carried by the wind.

Lord, you are the potter; we are simply clay.
Take the lives we offer; mold us more each day.
In this holy Advent, show us all anew:
With your hand you bless us, when we wait for you.

The Blessing of the Light

Please kneel or be seated

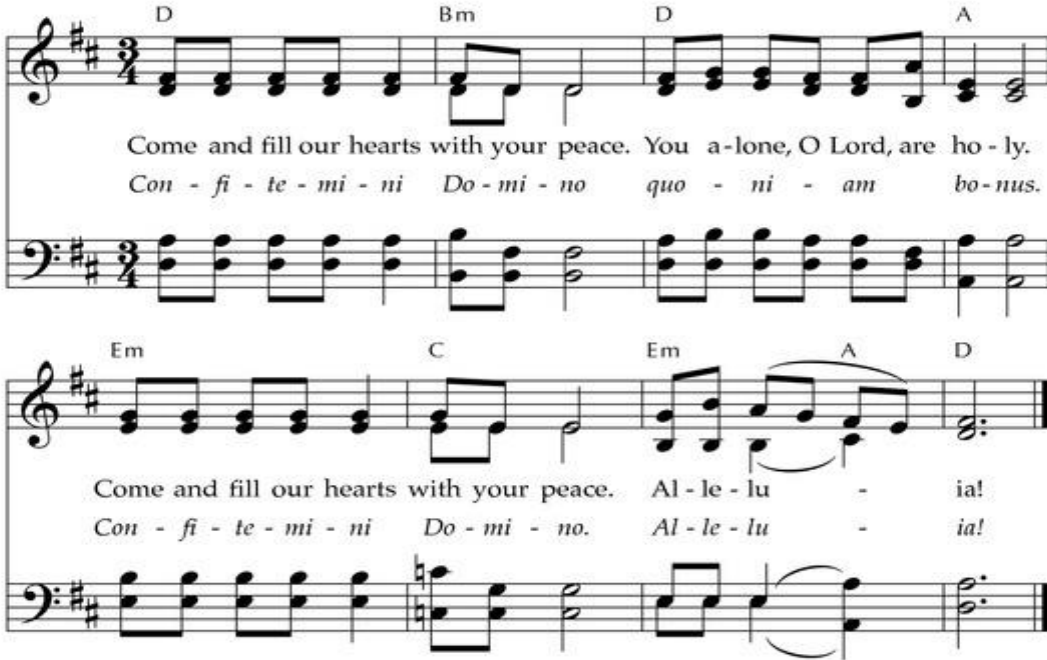
Priest: 

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: 

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Cantor sings the refrain. The congregation then repeats.



Chords: D, Bm, D, A, Em, C, Em, A, D

Lyrics:
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!
Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no. Al-le-lu-ia!

Priest: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son.

All sing the refrain

Priest: You have ordained the ministries of angels and mortals in one holy communion: grant that as these holy messengers always serve you in heaven so, at your command, they may help and defend us here on earth.

All sing the refrain

Priest: Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

All sing the refrain

First Reading:

Daniel 6: 16-23

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Daniel

Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" 17 A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet ring of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no entertainment was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. Then at dawn, the king got up and at first light hurried to the den of lions. When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: "ALL WHO WOULD VALIANT BE ..."

All sing

All who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,
Let them in constancy follow the master.
There's no discouragement shall make them once relent
Their first avowed intent: to be a pilgrim

Who so beset them round with dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound; their strength the more is.
No foes shall stay their might; though they with giants fight,
They will make good their right: to be a pilgrim,

Since, Lord, you will defend us with your Spirit,
We know we at the end shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away! We'll fear not what they say,
We'll labour night and day: to be a pilgrim

Second Reading:

Matthew 6:25-30

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus said: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection - Fr. Daniel Brereton

Advent Prose



The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics "Drop down, ye hea - vens from a - bove," are written below the staff. The word "All sing" is written above the final note of the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics "and let the skies pour down right-eous - ness." are written below the staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Drop down, ye hea - vens from a - bove,

and let the skies pour down right-eous - ness.

Cantor: Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

All sing the Antiphon

Cantor: We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away; thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

All sing the Antiphon

Cantor: Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

All sing the Antiphon

Cantor: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

All sing the Antiphon

The Prayers

Priest: Lord it is night. The night is for stillness.

All: **Let us be still in the presence of God.**

Priest: It is night after a long day.

All: **What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

Priest: The night is dark.

All: **Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.**

Priest: The night is quiet.

All: **Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

Priest: The night heralds the dawn.

All: **Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.**

Act of Faith

Priest: Dear friends, belief in the coming of the Messiah brought peace to Daniel, even while living in exile in Babylon. As we await the coming of this light, we too live in a world that is not our true home; a world that often threatens us if we don't serve the agendas of those in power. We know however that God sends his angels to stand between us and those things that would destroy us – reminding us of God's presence at those times of fear. I invite you therefore in the name of the Lord to take a moment of silence, to share with Jesus your own deep fears and then, come forward to the altar and light a candle – a sign that you trust in God's grace and compassion and a commitment to hold fast to that faith.

Solo: "COME IN MAJESTY, LORD JESUS"

Concluding Prayer

Priest: Emmanuel, God with us, our world waits in darkness longing for your light. In the midst of turmoil, give us peace. As we long for lasting peace in the midst of war,

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: As we long for security and safety amidst uncertainty and things beyond our control.

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: As we long for love and belonging, yet fear rejection and judgement.

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: As we long for health and vitality, while experiencing pain, ageing and limitations.

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: As we long for meaning and purpose, when our hearts are sometimes filled with apathy or despair.

All: **Be with us.**

Priest: Fulfill the deepest longings of your people and dispel the darkness in our hearts and in our world.

All: **Let your Word fill us with the peace the world needs to bring to life your love and justice.**

Priest: We ask this in the name of Our Peace, Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Gathering all our cares into one, let us pray,

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.**

Hymn: #323 - “YE HOLY ANGELS BRIGHT” (v 1, 3, 4)

All sing

Ye holy angels bright, who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song, for else the theme too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

Ye saints, who toil below, adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives and praise him still,
through good and ill,
who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part, triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days, till life shall end, whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.

Dismissal

Priest: Go with peace, knowing that greater is He who is at work in us, than he who is at work in the world.

People: **Thanks be to God.**