



Everyone is welcome in Orchardhill.

Before our service begins at 10.30am, you're free to have a tea or coffee and browse through what's happening. Feel free to sit wherever you wish.

Join us, too, for drinks and chat after the service.

To find out more about anything in Orchardhill, just ask someone or visit www.orchardhill.org.uk

Verses are sung responsively following each section of prayer.

(Prayer)

O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

(Prayer)

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:

(Prayer)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:

(Prayer)

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

(Prayer)

O come, thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

18th century, based on the ancient Advent Antiphons
translated John Mason Neale (1818-1866) ccli licence 20979

Come and join the celebration, it's a very special day.

Come and share our jubilation; there's a new King born today!

See the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them.

'God is with us,' round the world the message sing;

He is with us,

'Welcome,' all the bells on earth are pealing.

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus
to reach out and touch Him
and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen:
O, open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus!

Robert Cull © 1976 Maranatha! Music/CopyCare ccli licence 20979

Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands,
like bread we break for sharing;

look people warmly in the eye:
our like is meant for caring.

And at communion, shape your hands
into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ, receive, revere,
united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance
and share it like a treasure.

Fred Kaan (b.1929) ccli licence 20979

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God, the trinity of love,
before, beneath, around, above.

Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585) Ravenscroft's Psalms, 1621 ccli licence 20979

Ye gates lift up your heads on high;
ye doors that last for ay
be lifted up, that so the King
of glory enter may!

But who of glory is the King?
The mighty Lord is this,
ev'n that same Lord, that great in might
and strong in battle is.

There's a light upon the mountains, and the
day is at the spring,
when our eyes shall see the beauty and the
glory of the King;
weary was our heart with waiting, and the
night-watch seemed so long,
But his triumph-day is breaking, and we hail it
with a song.

Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,
doors that do last for ay,
be lifted up, that so the King
of glory enter may!

But who is he that is the King
of glory? who is this?
The Lord of hosts, and none but he,
the King of glory is.

*Francis Rous (1579-1659NS), William Barton (c. 1597-1678) Scottish Psalter (1650)
ccli licence 20979*

In the fading of the starlight we can see the
coming morn;
and the lights of men are paling in the
splendours of the dawn;
for the eastern skies are glowing as with lights
of hidden fire,
and the hearts of men are stirring with the
throb of deep desire.

There's a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air;
and the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer;
for the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne,
and the travail of our spirit is the travail of his own.

He is breaking down the barriers, he is casting up the way;
he is calling for his angels to build up the gates of day;

but his angels here are human, not the shining hosts above,
for the drum-beats of his army are the heart-beats of our love.

Hark! We hear a distant music, and it comes with fuller swell;
'tis the triumph song of Jesus, of our King Emmanuel;
Zion, go ye forth to meet him, and my soul, be swift to bring
all thy sweetest and thy dearest for the triumph of our King. Henry Burton (1840-1930) ccli licence 20979

Scripture - Daniel 6:6-27

So these chief ministers and satraps went as a group to the king and said: 'May King Darius live for ever! The royal ministers, prefects, satraps, advisors and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered – in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.' So King Darius put the decree in writing. Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: 'Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?' The king answered, 'The decree stands – in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.' Then they said to the king, 'Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.' When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sunset to save him. Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, 'Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.' So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den.

The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!' A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?' Daniel answered, 'May the king live for ever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.' The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: 'May you prosper greatly! I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. 'For he is the living God and he endures for ever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.'

Intimations

Today's retiring collection will be in aid of Lodging House Mission

Congregational Board meet next Tuesday, 5th December at 7.30pm in the Session Room.

Online Advent Calendar Each day in Advent this year, from today to Christmas Eve, Orchardhill's website will feature a short video from one of our members where they show the box they made and tell a little about what God With Us means to them. We hope this will give you different perspectives on God being present in the world as we prepare for Christmas, and that you'll enjoy seeing what people thought about and created. The website is orchardhill.org.uk – why not tweet using the hashtag #notjustthebox and let your friends know?

The Choir warmly invite you all to their Christmas Cantata 'Invitation to a miracle' next Sunday, 10th December – new and well-known melodies mixed in with narration and accompanied by a string trio. Come and join the celebration as we bring you the Christmas story in song and verse.

An Afternoon of Fellowship on Sunday 10th December from 3.30pm, come along and enjoy a festive showing of 'It's a Wonderful Life' with tea, coffee and mince pies.

WFO envelopes can be collected from the Claremount Door from today.

The Orchard Café The lunch will be on Tuesday 12th December at 12noon. We will be serving delicious hot soup with homemade bread followed by Christmas pudding or trifle and tea or coffee. Please book your place by phoning the Church office (638 3604) or speaking to any of the Orchard team as soon as possible. This will also be the last café day of 2017. There will be no café that morning. If you brought a container with your baking for the Christmas Fayre please pick it up today from a table in the church. Thank you.

Orchardhill Christmas Fayre Our thanks go to all those who took part in the preparation, organisation and the stall holders, indeed, everyone involved for their wonderful contribution to what turned out to be an event which exceeded our wildest expectations. To date all our efforts have raised in the region of £4000 to which has to be added the very kind donation of £1000 from the Orchard Café.

Remembering Those We Love A service for the Bereaved. This evening at 6 30pm at Mearns Kirk Church.

'In Harmony' Christmas Concerts are on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm, at Giffnock South Parish Church, in aid of The Lodging House Mission. Tickets priced £5, free of charge for children.