

**St Mary's Church**  
Herriard with Winslade

# **Advent Service**



"The Benois Madonna" by Leonardo da Vinci

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016**  
**At 6.00pm**

Organist: Nick Willmer

**Alton & Petersfield Rock Choir**  
(Leader: Danny Gortler)

**Trumpeter: Helena Bonwitt**

Advent is a time of waiting.

Our whole life, however, is Advent – that is, a time of waiting for the ultimate, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth, when all people are brothers and sisters and one rejoices in the words of the angels: “On earth peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

Learn to wait, because he has promised to come.

“I stand at the door?”

We however call to him: “Yes, come soon, Lord Jesus!” Amen.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 – 1945)

## Introduction and Bidding Prayer

Priest: May the Lord guide us in the way of peace,  
Give light to those who sit in darkness  
And kindle in all people the fire of his love

**All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus**

Priest: It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when we first believed. It is far on into the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of light. The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you**

**Hymn 645:** The Holly and the Ivy

**Lesson:** Isaiah 40: 1 - 5

**Confession** (please kneel or sit)

**All: Lord God, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and we ask for your help and strength. Help us to know ourselves and be honest about our weaknesses. Fill us with your forgiving love, inspire us with your Spirit, so that we too may follow courageously and obey your Son.**

**Lord, let me hear the call of your prophet, John the Baptist, that I may truly repent and change. Let what is crooked in me be made straight, let what is rough become smooth, and what is empty be filled with your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**God of the waiting - from Christian Aid**

God of the waiting,  
give us courage to wait with those in the most broken  
places of the world,  
and with all those who struggle to be bearers of hope there.  
We pray with those who wait for wars to stop, for  
violence to cease.  
God of the waiting, turn conflict into peace.  
And we pray for those who have given up on the  
coming of hope,  
because they feel they wait in vain

at checkpoints, at borders, for jobs, for food,  
and for all those whose lives are crushed under the  
structures and systems of injustice.  
God of the waiting, wait with your world.  
Turn anger into reconciliation,  
and our lack of hope into courage,  
so that our waiting may be over  
and all the things of darkness shall be no more.

### **Hymn 370: Joy to the World**

#### **Three Wise Women**

Would have asked for directions,  
Arrived on time,  
Helped deliver the baby,  
Brought practical gifts,  
Cleaned the stable,  
Made a casserole,  
And there would have been  
Peace on Earth.  
Just Saying ...

#### **The Queens Came Late by Norma Faber**

The Queens Came late, but the Queens were there  
With gifts in their hands and crowns in their hair.  
They'd come, these three, like the Kings, from far,  
Following, yes, that guiding star.  
They'd left their ladles, linens, looms,  
Their children playing in nursery rooms,  
And told their sitters:  
"Take charge! For this  
Is a marvellous sight we must not miss!"  
The Queens came late, but not too late  
To see the animals small and great  
Feathered and furred, domestic and wild,  
Gathered to gaze at a mother and child  
And rather than frankincense and myrrh  
And gold for the babe, they brought for her  
Who held him, a homespun gown of blue,

And chicken soup – with noodles, too –  
And a lingering, lasting, cradle-song.  
The Queens came late and stayed not long,  
For their thoughts already were straining far –  
Past manger and mother and guiding star  
And a child aglow as a morning sun –  
Toward home and children and chores undone.

## **ALTON & PETERSFIELD ROCK CHOIR**

### **Follow That by Giles Coren**

The surprising thing about Christmas in the Bible, is that there is so little of it. Mark and John hardly bother at all with the Nativity (theirs are the Gospels according to Scrooge) and Luke and Matthew really only do a chapter each. I am sure they would all have written much more about it, if they had only known how big it was going to be two thousand years later.

And even Luke and Matthew are completely silent on the subject of Boxing Day. Which is missing a trick if you ask me. You've got millions of people interested in your story, full of food and booze and fit for very little, and the best chance you have all year that they will sit down and read on. But you give them nothing, nothing at all, about what happened on Boxing Day.

Not that it is very hard to imagine.

1. NOW the day after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the King behold there came Wise Men from the East to Jerusalem, Saying: "Did anybody hold on to the receipt? For the Frankincense did not suit, and that shop in Nazareth has a returns policy something shocking in this day and age."
2. But when They came unto the shop with their receipt they could not get in, for there was a line of literally thousands of not very wise men and women from the East, mostly China and the Gulf states, queuing for cut-price perfume and uncomfortable shoes.
3. But finally they were admitted to the shop and found a sales assistant who spoke English and they rejoiced with exceeding great joy, saying, "Can we change this for an iPad? We have the receipt and everything."
4. And the sales assistant said unto them: "No. That receipt is not valid in the sales. Someone ought to have told you. Or it should at the very least have come to you in a dream."

5. And they went out of that place to where there were shepherds abiding in a field, because the traditional Boxing Day hunt was about to come through and they reckoned if they could get some footage on their phones of some toff killing a fox they could try to flog it to the RSPCA and waste a huge amount of time and money.

Yea, and there was nothing much else in the papers. Because after the birth of the Son of Man, how do you follow that? So it was just some stuff about the weather and cancelled trains and some photos of Kim Kardashian leaked on Instagram. And then it was time for the football.

## **ALTON & PETERSFIELD ROCK CHOIR**

**Hymn 411:** Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us

### **Advent Calendar by Rowan Williams**

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.

**The Prayers** including the Collect for Advent and the Lord's Prayer

Priest: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

**All: And all flesh shall see it**

Priest: With the Lord one day is a thousand years

**All: And a thousand years as one day**

Priest: Come, O Lord and do not tarry;

**All: Forgive the transgressions of your people**

Priest: Now is the time to wake out of sleep

**All: Now is the time of our salvation nearer than we first believed**

Priest: Who do you say I am?

**All: You are the Christ, the son of the living God**

Priest: Christ did not come to be served but to serve

**All: And to give his life as a ransom for many**

**The centre candle is lit**

Priest:

Bless are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun's light seems to be swallowed up by the growing darkness, you renew your promise to reveal the splendour of your glory, made flesh and visible in Jesus your Son, the Christ who came and will come among us.

Through the prophets you have taught us to hope for the reign of peace. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, you remove our inability to see the glory of his presence. Strengthen us as we stumble in our efforts to do your will, free our tongues to sing your praise and grant us to see his light and hope however dark life becomes.

**All: For to you all honour and blessing are due, now and forever. Amen**

**Hymn 37:** Angel-voices ever singing

**Dismissal** (please stand)

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| To a troubled world  | <b>All: Peace from Christ</b> |
| To a searching world | <b>Love from Christ</b>       |
| To a darkening world | <b>Light from Christ</b>      |

|              |                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| The Cross    | <b>We shall take it</b>         |
| The Bread    | <b>We shall break it</b>        |
| The pain     | <b>We shall bear it</b>         |
| The joy      | <b>We shall share it</b>        |
| The Gospel   | <b>We shall live it</b>         |
| The love     | <b>We shall give it</b>         |
| The light    | <b>We shall reflect it</b>      |
| The darkness | <b>Christ shall conquer it.</b> |

**The Blessing.**



In my imagination I see a fair world,  
Everyone lives in peace and in honesty there.  
I dream of souls that are always free,  
Like the clouds that fly,  
Full of humanity in the depths of the soul.

In my imagination I see a bright world,  
Even the night is less dark there.  
I dream of souls that are always free,  
Like clouds that fly.  
Full of humanity in the depths of the soul.

In my imagination there exists a warm wind,  
That breathes on the cities, like a friend.  
I dream of souls that are always free,  
Like clouds that fly,  
Full of humanity in the depths of the soul.

**Ennio Morricone**