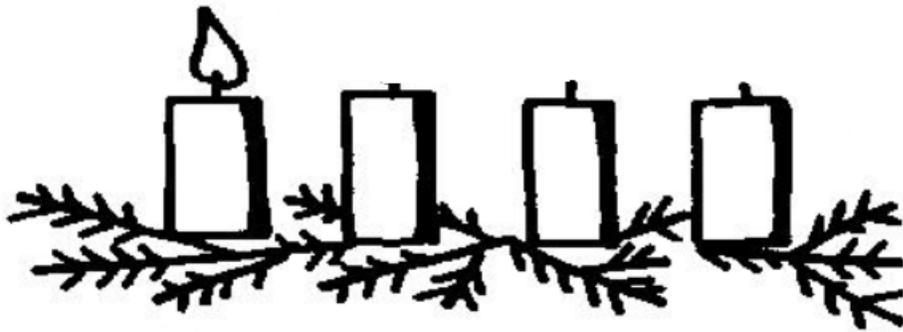




St. Augustine's Church

A Church Family in the Heart of the City



The Great "O" Antiphons

A Service of Hope and Expectation

told in scripture, song, and the sonnets of Malcolm Guite

First Sunday in Advent

November 28th, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Welcome to St. Augustine's Church

We are part of the worldwide Anglican Church, although many of us come from a variety of Christian backgrounds or none. We are located near the centre of Lethbridge, Alberta but our congregation is spread all over the city and region. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to join our church family as we learn to follow Jesus.

***Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.***

—Isaiah 7:14

It is a particular joy to welcome you to this service of The Great "O" Antiphons. Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

There is an ancient tradition of having readings, other than from scripture, in Christian worship, although most churches no longer maintain this tradition. In this service you will experience the reading of scripture paired with music and the contemporary sonnets of Malcolm Guite. Inspired by the traditional liturgical antiphons of Advent, Guite has written a sonnet for each. Throughout the service, verses of the 9th century plainsong VENI EMMANUEL, known to us today as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", are sung in response to the spoken word. May these words and this music propel you quietly toward the true joy of Christmas.

The sonnets will be read by Kelly Frewin.

The cantor for this service is Joanne Collier, Music Director.

The readers are youth members of St. Augustine's Church.

This music will be sung and played by members and friends of St. Augustine's Church:

Karen Hudson, Erinn Roberts, Keith Griffioen, singers

Sarah Viejou, French Horn

Mary Lee Voort, Organist and Pianist

Thank you to our Technical Support Team for this service:

David Hignell, Michael Larsen, sound

Tim Fyfe, Orion Legg, video

The Order of service is set forth in this service booklet.

*Please join in singing the carols and in saying the parts printed in **bold**.*

WELCOME

HYMN VERSE • #89 - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Presider Pour down, O heavens, from above;
All **And let the skies rain down righteousness.**

Presider Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord;
and remember not our sins for ever.
Your holy cities have become a desert,
Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation;
our holy and beautiful house, where our forebears praised you.
All **Pour down, O heavens, from above;**
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Presider We have sinned and become like one who is unclean;
we have all withered like a leaf,
and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away.
You have hidden your face from us;
and abandoned us to our iniquities.
All **Pour down, O heavens, from above;**
and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Presider You are my witnesses, says the Lord;
and my servant whom I have chosen;
that you may know me and believe me.
I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver;
what my hand holds, none can snatch away.
All **Pour down, O heavens, from above;**
and let the skies rain down righteousness

Presider Comfort my people, comfort them;
my salvation shall not be delayed.
I have swept your offences away like a cloud;
fear not, for I will save you.
I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
your Redeemer.

**All Pour down, O heavens, from above;
and let the skies rain down righteousness.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
The Lord bless you.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Presider O wisdom, coming forth from the Most High, filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth; come and teach us the way of truth.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

ANTIPHON • “O Sapientia” (O Wisdom)

O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the most High,
and reachest from one end to another, mightily,
and sweetly, and ordering all things:
come and teach us the way of prudence.

READING • Sirach 24:3-9

Charis Legg

“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.' Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.

SONNET • “O Sapientia”

I cannot think unless I have been thought,
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken.
I cannot teach except as I am taught,
Or break the bread except as I am broken.
O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,
O Light within the light by which I see,
O Word beneath the words with which I speak,
O founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me,
O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,
O Memory of time, reminding me,
My Ground of Being, always grounding me,
My Maker's Bounding Line, defining me,
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,
Come to me now, disguised as everything.

HYMN VERSE • “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Silence is kept.

Presider O Lord of Lords, and ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and gave him the law on Sinai: come with your outstretched arm and ransom us.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

ANTIPHON • “O Adonai” (O Lord)

O Adonai, and Leader of the house of Israel,
who appearest in the Bush to Moses in a flame of fire,
and gavest him the law of Sinai:
come and deliver us with an outstretched arm.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

SONNET • "O Adonai"

Unsayable, you chose to speak one tongue,
 Unseeable, you gave yourself away,
 The Adonai, the Tetragramaton
 Grew by a wayside in the light of day.
 O you who dared to be a tribal God,
 To own a language, people and a place,
 Who chose to be exploited and betrayed,
 If so you might be met with face to face,
 Come to us here, who would not find you there,
 Who chose to know the skin and not the pith,
 Who heard no more than thunder in the air,
 Who marked the mere events and not the myth.
 Touch the bare branches of our unbelief
 And blaze again like fire in every leaf.

HYMN VERSE • "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,
 who to your tribes on Sinai's height
 in ancient times once gave the law,
 in cloud and majesty and awe.**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Silence is kept.

Presider O root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations; kings will keep silence before you for whom the nations long; come and save us and delay no longer.
All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

ANTIPHON • “O Radix” (*O Root of Jesse*)

O Root of Jesse,
which standest for an ensign of the people,
at whom kings shall shut their mouths,
to whom the Gentiles shall seek:
Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

READING • Isaiah 11:1-4

Alice Doherty

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.

SONNET • “O Radix”

All of us sprung from one deep-hidden seed,
Rose from a root invisible to all.
We knew the virtues once of every weed,
But, severed from the roots of ritual,
We surf the surface of a wide-screen world
And find no virtue in the virtual.
We shrivel on the edges of a wood
Whose heart we once inhabited in love,
Now we have need of you, forgotten Root
The stock and stem of every living thing
Whom once we worshiped in the sacred grove,
For now is winter, now is withering
Unless we let you root us deep within,
Under the ground of being, graft us in.

HYMN VERSE • “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O Rod of Jesse’s stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty pow’r to save,
and give them victory o’er the grave.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Silence is kept.

Presider O key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and none can shut;
you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison, and break
down the walls of death.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

ANTIPHON • “O Clavis” (O Key of David)

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel;
that openest, and no man shutteth, and shuttest, and no man openeth:
Come and bring the prisoner out of the prison house,
and him that sitteth in darkness,
and the shadow of death.

READING • Isaiah 22:21-23

Kadeja Edwards

I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the people of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a seat[of honour for the house of his father.

SONNET • “O Clavis”

Even in the darkness where I sit
And huddle in the midst of misery
I can remember freedom, but forget
That every lock must answer to a key,
That each dark clasp, sharp and intricate,
Must find a counter-clasp to meet its guard,

Particular, exact and intimate,
The clutch and catch that meshes with its ward.
I cry out for the key I threw away
That turned and over turned with certain touch
And with the lovely lifting of a latch
Opened my darkness to the light of day.
O come again, come quickly, set me free
Cut to the quick to fit, the master key.

HYMN VERSE • “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Silence is kept.

Presider O morning star, splendour of the light eternal and bright sun of righteousness:
come and bring light to those who dwell in darkness and walk in the shadow of
death.

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

ANTIPHON • “O Oriens” (O Dayspring)

O Dayspring,
Brightness of Light everlasting, and Sun of Righteousness:
Come and enlighten him that sitteth in darkness,
and the shadow of death.

READING • Numbers 24:15b-17

Cooper Roberts

The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly, the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth.

SONNET • “O Oriens”

First light and then first lines along the east
To touch and brush a sheen of light on water
As though behind the sky itself they traced
The shift and shimmer of another river
Flowing unbidden from its hidden source;
The Day-Spring, the eternal Prima Vera.
Blake saw it too. Dante and Beatrice
Are bathing in it now, away upstream...
So every trace of light begins a grace
In me, a beckoning. The smallest gleam
Is somehow a beginning and a calling;
“Sleeper awake, the darkness was a dream
For you will see the Dayspring at your waking,
Beyond your long last line the dawn is breaking”.

HYMN VERSE • “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadow put to flight.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Silence is kept.

Presider O king of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: cornerstone, binding all together: come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust of the earth.
All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

ANTIPHON • “O Emmanuel” (*O Dayspring*)

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
The Desire of all nations,
and their Salvation:
Come and save us,
O Lord our God.

How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it. “‘In that day,’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them. Instead, they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

“‘So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel,’ declares the Lord. ‘I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid. I am with you and will save you,’ declares the Lord. ‘Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.’

SONNET • “O Emmanuel”

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
 O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
 O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
 Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
 Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
 O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
 Be folded with us into time and place,
 Unfold for us the mystery of grace
 And make a womb of all this wounded world.
 O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
 O tiny hope within our hopelessness
 Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
 To touch a dying world with new-made hands
 And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

HYMN VERSE • “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
 in one the hearts of humankind;
 O bid our bitter conflict cease,
 and be for us our Prince of Peace.**

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Silence is kept.

THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Presider Stay with us, Lord, for evening draws on, and the day is almost over.

Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: the Lord is his name.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Dear friends in Christ, as we worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

All kneel and silence is kept.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Presider Lord our God,
on the first day of creation
you made the light that scatters all darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights,
hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people
and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with good works
as we go out to meet your Son,
so that we may rejoice to welcome him at his coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN VERSE • #114 - “Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending”

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
deeply grieving, shall the true Messiah see.**

**Now redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah! See the day of God appear!**

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly!
O come quickly! Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!**

Presider **May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory. Amen.**

All **Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Mary Lee Voort

Thank you for joining us and may God bless you this Advent season.



Advent & Christmas Events and Services

Advent Carol Service	Sunday, Dec. 12 at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday School Program	Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10:00 am
Christmas Eve	Thursday, Dec. 24
	❖ Family Holy Communion (candlelight) @ 7:00pm
	❖ Late Night Holy Communion service (candlelight) @ 11:00pm
Christmas Day	NO SERVICE
First Sunday in Christmas	Sunday, Dec. 26 @ 10:00am
Epiphany Sunday	Sunday, Jan. 2 @ 10:00am

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday	8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BCP) <i>in-person</i>
Sunday	10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer, <i>in-person and livestream</i> Sunday School
Thursday	9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BCP) <i>in-person</i>

The Daily Office

Monday	8:45 p.m. Night Prayer, <i>online</i>
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, <i>in person</i>
Wednesday	8:45 p.m. Compline (BCP), <i>online</i>
Thursday	8:45 p.m. Night Prayer, <i>online</i>
Friday	8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, <i>in person</i>

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