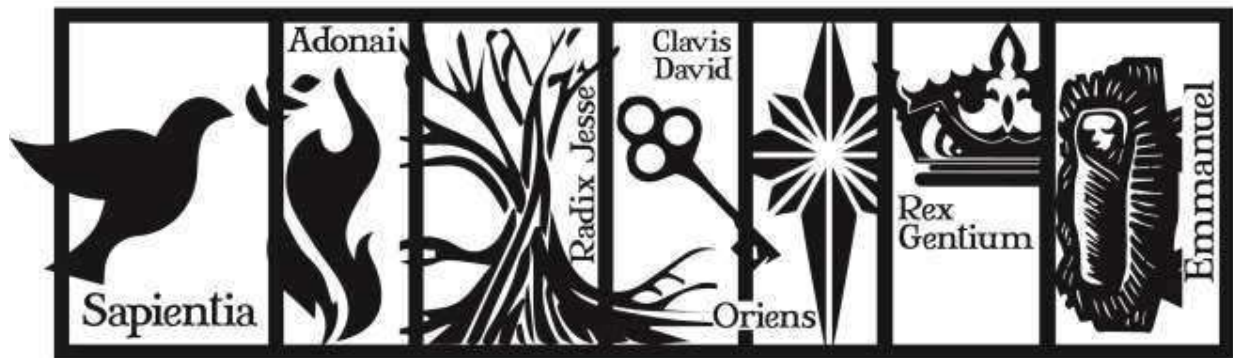


SARC ORE



ERO CRAS

...Veni

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

The Great O Antiphons—From Darkness to Light

7 December 2025

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

18 Bradley Avenue

Brattleboro, Vermont

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. — Gospel of John, 1:1

Today's Lessons and Carols are built around the Great O Antiphons of Advent, ancient chants that originated in the 5th or 6th century. Each chant describes a characteristic or name of God and a vision of the time when spiritual darkness turns to light. As we light the candles, may we each hold in our heart all who seek the healing light of justice, healing, mercy, and joy.

The Antiphons are remarkable in many ways, not the least being that they bring a wide representation of imagery and imagination to describe the Divine: Wisdom; Source of Order; Fire; Morning Star; Cornerstone; Root; Key; and finally: God that dwells within us. As you hear them, you may want to use this imagery to help you experience that particular aspect of the sacred in your life or in the world around you.

BELOVED SHELTER: A WARM PLACE THIS WINTER

Beloved Shelter is a new community effort to offer a warm and welcoming overnight space for unhoused adults during the coldest months of the year. Located at Beloved Community Church, Beloved Shelter opened on December 1 of this year. The idea that every person in Brattleboro should and could have access to a warm and safe place to sleep is the underlying premise. Founded on the ethic of residents helping residents, Beloved Shelter finds support from people of all walks of life: educators, psychiatric nurses, clergy, artists, community organizers, and neighbors who care. The shelter is fiscally sponsored by skyberry house, a local House of Hospitality inspired by the Catholic Worker tradition.

The name of Beloved Shelter honors both the host site (Beloved Community Church), and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of the "Beloved Community" – a world where everyone is valued, cared for, and treated with dignity. Beloved Community Church was formed through the merger of First United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church of Brattleboro, uniting two congregations with deep local roots and a shared commitment to faith in action. The new Beloved Community continues their legacy of compassion, hospitality, and service, including First Baptist's long history of hosting winter shelters for those in need.

As we remember and celebrate the story of the Holy Family, who sought shelter from the cold and safety at a time of deep vulnerability, we share this evening's offering with the Beloved Shelter.

At the sound of the bells, congregation remain seated.

MATIN RESPONSORY

I look from afar, and lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him, and say,

“Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?”

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

go ye out to meet him and say:

“Art thou he that should come?”

Hear, O thou Shepherd

thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep,

tell us, art thou he?”

Stir up thy strength, O Lord,

and come to reign over thy people Israel.

(First Responsory of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins, early medieval Roman rite)

BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

All stand.

Presider: The Lord is my light and my salvation:

All: **Our God shall change the darkness into light.**

P: Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of the day and of the night.
As darkness falls, we ask you to reveal to us the light of your
presence. Dispel the darkness of our hearts and of our world, that
we may walk as children of light and sing your praises.

All: **Blessed be God forever. Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN 102

Once in Royal David's City (vs 1, 2, 4, 6)

Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and scorned, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our childhood's pattern;
Daily when on Earth He grew;
He was tempted, scorned, rejected,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in our gladness.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing round,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround;
Christ revealed to faithful eye,
Set at God's right hand on high.

ADVENT BIDDING

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The people are seated.

ANTHEM

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett, b. 1952

FIRST LESSON

John 1:1-5, 10-14

Silence follows.

ANTIPHON

O Sapientia

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come Immanuel

John Rutter, b.1945

SECOND LESSON

Exodus 3:1-6

Silence follows.

ANTIPHON


O Adonai

O Lord, and leader of the house of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come, and redeem us with an outstretched arm.


All Stand.

HYMN 56


O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1, 6-8)




(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*; alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

Silence follows.

ANTIPHON

O Radix Jesse

O root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
 before you kings will shut their mouths,
 to you the nations will make their prayer:
 Come, and deliver us, and delay no longer.

ANTHEM

O Radix Jesse

Luc Jakobs, b. 1956

FOURTH LESSON

Revelation 3:7-8, 20

Silence follows.

ANTIPHON

O Clavis David

O key of David and scepter of the house of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come, and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

All Stand.

HYMN 81

Lo, How A Rose, E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;
It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and
cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Silence follows.

ANTIPHON

O Oriens

O morning star,
splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come, and enlighten those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

ANTHEM

Womb of Darkness

Music, Keane Southard, b. 1987; words, adwoa Wilson

O God who surrounded yourself in the wilderness with clouds and deep darkness, who knit your incarnate Son in the dark warmth of Mary's womb: Make the darkness of this evening become for us a creative, healing, and courageous time, in whose silence we notice you whispering the answers our world's wilderness most needs to hear. Amen.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1:67-79

Silence follows.

ANTIPHON

O, Rex Gentium

O king of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:
Come, and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.

HYMN 82

Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten, ere the worlds be-
 2 O that birth for ev-er bless-ed, when the Vir-gin,
 3 Let the heights of heaven a-dore him; an-gel hosts, his
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa-ther, and, O Ho-ly

gan to be, he is Al-pha and O-me-ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing,
 prais-es sing; powers, do-min-ions, bow be-fore him,
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing,

he the source, the end-ing he, of the things that
 bore the Sa-vior of our race; and the Babe, the
 and ex-tol our God and King; let no tongue on
 and un-wea-ried prais-es be; hon-or, glo-ry

are, that have been, and that fu-ture
 world's Re-deem-er, first re-vealed his
 earth be-si-lent, ev-ery voice in
 and do-min-ion, and e-ter-nal

years shall see, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 sa-cred face, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 con-cert ring, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!
 vic-to-ry, ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt. Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Silence follows.

ANTIPHON

O, Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
 the hope of the nations and their Savior:
 Come and save us, O Lord our God.

ANTHEM

Matko niebieskiego Pana ("Mother of the Heavenly Lord")

Henryk Mikołaj Górecki (1933-2010)

*Mother of the Heavenly Lord,
 Immaculate and of such beauty
 In the whole world
 And through all times passed
 Never known!*

*All His heavenly treasures,
 God has given to you, Holy Virgin;*

*Your robe made of the sun's rays
 And a crown woven with stars
 For your head.*

*The moon bows down its
 Silvery rays before your saintly feet;
 All the stars are your servants,
 For them you are their*

Queen of Heaven.

*Through your solemn pleading
Let the Lord forgive us sinners.*

*Pray for peace, Holy Virgin,
Conceived without sin,
Mary!*

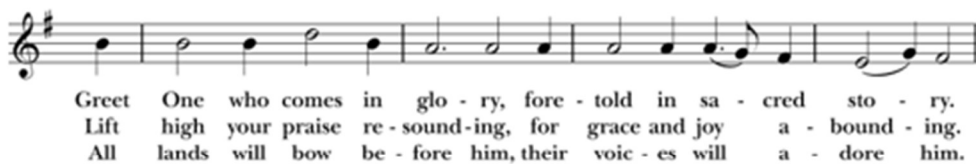
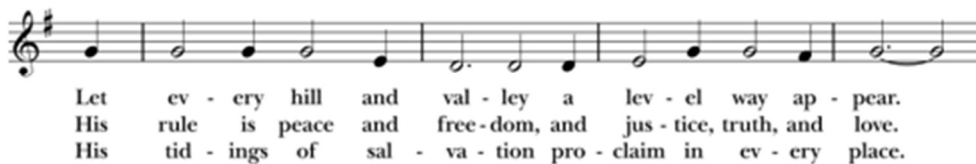
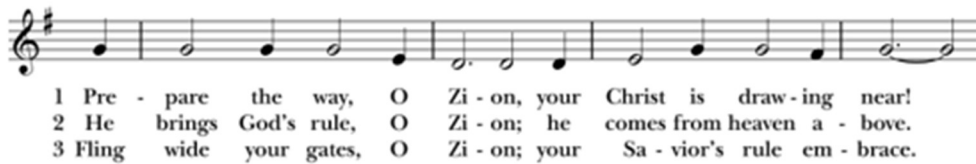
OFFERING

*The offering today is in support of **the Beloved Winter Shelter**, an emergency shelter in Brattleboro.*

All stand.

HYMN 65

Prepare the Way, O Zion



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

ADVENT VESPERS RESPONSORY

V. We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

R. in the midst of thy temple.

V. Fear not, nor be dismayed.

R. Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord shall be with you.

V. Stand ye still and you shall see the salvation of the Lord.

R. Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord shall be with you.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R. Tomorrow go ye forth and the Lord shall be with you.

ADVENT BLESSING

HYMN 72

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
The Savior promised long!
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace,
T'enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And Heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Please join us for refreshments downstairs in the Undercroft.
An elevator is available in the Common Room.*

Participants

Readers:

Jeremy Geragotelis
Steve Tavella
Gay Maxwell
Annie Landenberger

Chris Dubis
Kira Storm
Candice Taylor-Diallo

Choir:

Valerie Abrahamsen
Carol Beninati
Pam Carr
Hannah Cooper
Chris Dubis
Ann Ely
Jeremy Geragotelis
Bee Hesselbach
Judith Junkins
Jenny Karstad
Julia Kerr
Eva Kopacz
Margit Lilly

Jill Malin
Margery McCrum
George Moore
Joyce Vining Morgan
Jared Rediske
Betsy Southard
Lucy Spahr-Blazej
John Spooner
Sherry Stimmel
Talley Summerlin
Sherrill Wilson
Matthew Wojcik
Rosie Wojcik

Lay Assistant: Craig Irvine

Ushers: Brian Morgan and Ricky Davidson

Presider: The Reverend Mary Lindquist

Music Director: Dr. Keane Southard