

St John the Evangelist, Shirley

'LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS, O LORD' - a sequence of music and readings in preparation for Advent

Sunday 25 November 1984 at 6.00pm

- Proclamation: The prophet Haggai foretells the desire of all nations Haggai ii, 6-9
- Matin responsory: I look from afar Words: mediaeval Roman rite
Music: adapted from G P da Palestrina
- Hymn 47: Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding Words: trans. E Caswall
Music: W H Monk
- Old Testament: Isaiah speaks of God's power to comfort and restore his people Isaiah xl, 1-11
- Carol: The truth from above Words: traditional
Music: arr. R Vaughan Williams
- Meditation: The audacity to believe - two readings on the meaning of Christian love Michel Quoist; Sheila Cassidy
- Psalm 8: O Lord our Governor Chant: C V Stanford
Anthem: Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace Words: Isaiah xxvi, 3
Music: S S Wesley
- Hymn 390: Let all mortal flesh keep silence Words: Liturgy of St James
(vv 1-3 only) Music: traditional French Carol
- Poem: Man George Herbert
Carol: King Jesus hath a garden Words: trans G R Woodward
Music: Dutch melody, arr. Charles Wood
- New Testament: The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Christ, the Son of God Luke i, 26-28
- Carol: Gabriel's message Words: S Baring-Gould
Music: Basque carol, arr. Edgar Pettman
- Carol: The seven joys of Mary Words: Traditional
Music: arr. Martin Shaw
- Hymn 262: Thy Kingdom come, O God Words: L Hensley
Music: L G Hayne
- Poem: The journey of the Magi T S Eliot
- Aria: Zion hears the watchmen's voices Words: P Nicolai
Music: J S Bach
- Prayers
- Hymn 51: Lo, he comes with clouds descending Words: C Wesley and J Cennick
Music: T Olivers

George Herbert: 'O Thou, whose glorious, yet Contracted light,
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger,
Since my dark soul and brutish is thy right,
To Man of all beasts be not thou a stranger:
Furnish and deck my soul, that thou mayst have
A better lodging than a rack or grave.'