

Worship from King's College Chapel – Evening Prayer (Advent)

Episode 7 Transcript

Voiceover [00:00:02] This podcast is brought to you by the University of Aberdeen.

[00:01:37] **INTROIT:** Prayer of St Patrick (Mark Schweizer) **CANTOR:** Martha Egner

Rev David Hutchison [00:01:53] Hello, wherever you are, we are here in King's College Chapel at the University of Aberdeen. My name is David Hutchison, one of the Chaplains. During our service of Evening Prayer you will hear our Director of Chapel Music, Stuart Muir, at the organ. We have two members of our University Chapel Choir, Martha Egner and Marcus Wylie. Liam Dyker, the Duncan Hopkin scholar, is conducting. Welcome to you all. Should you wish to follow the service online, the order of service can be found at the Chapel website. Come, let us worship God.

Rev David Hutchison [00:02:58] Your word, O God, is lantern to our feet and a light upon our path. The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all:

[00:03:14] **and also with you.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:03:18] Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

[00:03:21] **who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

[00:03:42] **HYMN:** O come, O come Emmanuel **CANTOR:** Marcus Wylie

Rev David Hutchison [00:06:11] Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of the night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendour of your glory, enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of his spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due, now and forever. **Amen.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:07:34] Let my prayer be as incense to you:

[00:07:39] **the lifting up of my hands as the evening's sacrifice.**

[00:08:30] **PSALM 141:** O Lord, come quickly (St Columba) **CANTOR:** Martha Egner

PSALM 85: Guimont setting **CANTOR:** Marcus Wylie

Rev David Hutchison [00:11:47] Let us pray. Lord, teach us the silence of humility, **the silence of wisdom**, the silence of love, **the silence that speaks without words**, the silence of faith. **Lord, teach us to silence our own hearts and minds that we may listen for the movement of your Holy Spirit, and feel your presence in the depths of our being.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:12:32] The reading this evening is taken from St Mark's Gospel, chapter one, reading from verse one to verse eight. The beginning of the good news of

Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah. "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John, the baptiser, appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptised by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now, John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit". Amen.

Rev David Hutchison [00:14:32] Mark's Gospel, chapter one, verse seven. The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me. I find it slightly surprising that John the Baptist's first words to describe the coming of the Messiah, are to draw attention to power. John is highlighting the irony, anyone coming later cannot be greater in any way. The greatest and the most powerful must come first. But John flags up the contradiction. Jesus Christ while arriving on the scene after John is more powerful! And yet power is not commonly a term we use to describe this infant born in a manger. For power for us is muscle, is magnitude, is strength and forcefulness. A picture of power today might be a nuclear power station, military weaponry, aircraft carriers, a tank. This Messiah, our Lord and Saviour, was born in a stable with shepherds and animals around. This Messiah was found washing people's feet, was forced to wear a crown; not of silver or gold, a crown of thorns. Was homeless for most of his later years, was sentenced to death by a jeering crowd. So was John wrong? Was this Messiah more powerful than he? Indeed, was he powerful in any way at all? And the truth is, this baby whose birth we celebrate shortly turned all notions of power on their head. Forget power stations, forget tanks and military paraphernalia. In Christ, we meet a Messiah, who redefined true power. The power of light over dark, the power of truth over lies, the power of humility and service over force. Christ brandished no sword. Christ ruled no army nor sat on any throne. Christ never carried favour with any Caesar. No, Christ came last. Christ wept at the death of a friend. Christ turned the other cheek. Christ loved the outcasts and the so-called sinners. This Christ, this Emmanuel, this God, loves us. That we, in turn, may love and serve others. Here again, the prophet Isaiah. Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen in whom my soul delights. I put my spirit upon him. He will bring forth justice to the nations, he will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street. A bruised reed he will not break and a dimly burning wick, he will not quench. He will faithfully bring forth justice, he will not grow faint or be crushed. Until he has established justice in the earth. For the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Thanks be to God. Amen.

[00:21:17] **THE MAGNIFICAT:** My soul proclaims (tune: Martyrdom)

CANTOR: Martha Egner

Rev David Hutchison [00:23:09] Let us pray. Gracious God, God of faithfulness and truth. You sent your servant, John the Baptist, to preach in the desert and summon all people to repentance. Make us and all things new, grant us all the willingness to follow Covid guidelines, grant governments the ability to attend to their people, grant politicians the will to work for justice and peace for all. And so in peace, let us pray to the Lord, that this evening may be holy good and peaceful.

[00:24:17] **we pray to you, O Lord.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:24:19] That all we have done this day and the people we have met may bring us closer to you:

[00:24:28] **we pray to you, O Lord.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:24:31] That we may be forgiven our sins and offences:

[00:24:37] **we pray to you, O Lord.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:24:41] That we hear and respond to your call to peace and justice:

[00:24:48] **we pray to you, O Lord.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:24:52] That you will sustain the faith and hope of the weary, the lonely and the oppressed:

[00:25:01] **we pray to you, O Lord.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:25:05] That you will strengthen us in your service and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom:

[00:25:15] **we pray to you, O Lord.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:25:20] Lord, have mercy upon us.

[00:25:23] **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:25:25] Christ, have mercy upon us.

[00:25:30] **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:25:33] Lord, have mercy upon us.

[00:25:35] **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:25:41] Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, for now and forever. **Amen.**

[00:26:43] **ANTHEM:** In the stillness (Arlen Clarke) **CANTOR:** Marcus Wylie

Rev David Hutchison [00:29:12] Let us pray. Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in your presence. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

Rev David Hutchison [00:30:30] Come God, lead us in the way of your light.

[00:30:35] **Amen.**

[00:30:37] Come God, lead us in the way of your justice.

[00:30:42] **Amen.**

[00:30:44] Come God, lead us in the way of your peace.

[00:30:48] **Amen.**

[00:30:50] Come God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, bless your people this night and always. **Amen**

Voiceover [00:34:08] This podcast is brought to you by the University of Aberdeen.