

Westminster Abbey



A Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving on Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10th November 2024
10.50 am

Members of the congregation are requested kindly to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The whole of the church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Sub-Organist, and before the service by Paul Greally, Assistant Organist.

The Councillors of the City of Westminster enter the Great West Door in procession and take their places in the Nave.

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster and Deputy High Steward, Councillor Robert Rigby, who attends the service in civic state, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made.

Music before the service:

O Welt, ich muß dich lassen Op 122

Johannes Brahms (1833–97)

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball (1896–1987)

Psalm Prelude Set 1 No 3

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Fantasia and Fugue in C minor BWV 562

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
reconstructed by Zoltán Göncz (b 1958)*

ORDER OF PROCESSION

Official representatives of

Commonwealth Armed Forces

The Royal Air Force

The Army

The Royal Navy

The Merchant Air Service

The Merchant Navy

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police

Macebearer

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, consort, and officials

The Beadle

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

The Head Master and the Under Master of Westminster School

The Master of The King's Scholars

The King's Scholars

The Cross of Westminster and Lights

The Priests Vicar and visiting clergy

The Minor Canons

The Receiver General

The Canons' Verger

The Canons of Westminster

The Dean's Verger

The Dean of Westminster

The King's Almsmen

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain seated as The King's Scholars and choir move to positions by the Great West Door

All stand as the clergy, military, civil, and civic representatives, together with The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster and Deputy High Steward, Councillor Robert Rigby, move to places near the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. All sing the Hymn



O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

*St Anne 417 NEH
probably by William Croft (1678–1727)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1708–27*

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

*Isaac Watts (1674–1748)
after Psalm 90: 1–5*

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE, Dean of Westminster, gives the Bidding

We have come to remember before God those who have died for their country in the two world wars and the many conflicts of the years that have followed. Some we knew and loved: we treasure their memory still. Others are unknown to us: to their remembrance too, we give our time this morning. With thanksgiving we recall service offered and sacrifices made. We come with proper penitence for the destruction that war brings to individuals, families, and nations. We pray for all those, both civilian and military, who have died or continue to suffer the effects of combat. We thank God for the hard-won freedom from strife that we enjoy in this land. We pray God for a time when such sacrifice may never again be required. But we humbly ask that men and women might always be found who count their lives worthy above all because they serve the greater cause of justice and concord. Trusting in God's grace, we dedicate ourselves anew this day to creating a world in which healing, peace, and virtue flourish.

Lord of the nations, saviour and judge of all: remove from human hearts all bitterness and hate, grant to those who have died in war your mercy and forgiveness and bring us all to the peace of your eternal Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered and died, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The choir sings the Kontakion of the Departed

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servants with thy saints: where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting. Thou only art immortal, the Creator and maker of man: and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return: for so thou didst ordain, when thou createdst me, saying, Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. All we go down to the dust; and weeping o'er the grave, we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Give rest, O Christ, to thy servants with thy saints: where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Kyiv melody

translated by William Birkbeck (1869–1916)

At 11.00 am there is kept the Two Minutes' Silence

The choir sings

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Douglas Guest (1916–96)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1963–81

from For the Fallen Laurence Binyon (1869–1943)

All remain standing. The Dean says

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, whose name only is excellent and thy praise above heaven and earth: we remember in thy presence those who laid down their lives in war. May they find fulfilment in thy eternal kingdom; and grant that we may dedicate our lives to the causes of justice and freedom for which they died; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Last Post is sounded

Reveille is sounded

Representatives of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Armed Forces, Merchant Services, and Metropolitan Police Force, together with The Lord Mayor of Westminster process to places in Quire

All sing the Hymn during which the procession of choir, clergy, and King's Scholars move to places in Quire and the Sacrarium



Judge eternal, throned in splendour,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
with thy living fire of judgement
purge this realm of bitter things:
solace all its wide dominion
with the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining
for the hour that brings release:
and the city's crowded clangour
cries aloud for sin to cease;
and the homesteads and the woodlands
plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;
cleave our darkness with thy sword;
feed the faithless and the hungry
with the richness of thy word:
cleanse the body of this nation
through the glory of the Lord.

Rhuddlan 490 NEH
from Edward Jones' Musical Relicks of Welsh Bards 1800

Prayer for the Nation
Henry Holland (1847–1918)

All sit. Claire Horton CBE, Director General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission,
reads Isaiah 65: 17, 19–22, 24–end

Thus says the Lord: I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the Psalm

God is our hope and strength :
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved :
and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.
Though the waters thereof rage and swell :
and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God :
the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.
God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed :
God shall help her, and that right early.
The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved :
but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
The Lord of hosts is with us :
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord :
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
He maketh wars to cease in all the world :
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder,
and burneth the chariots in the fire.
Be still then, and know that I am God :
I will be exalted among the heathen,
and I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord of hosts is with us :
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

after Martin Luther (1483–1546)

Psalm 46

The Lord Mayor of Westminster reads Romans 8: 31–35, 37–end

What are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Dean gives the Address

The choir sings the Anthem, during which the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Torch of Commemoration is presented by Claire Horton CBE to Chelsea Pensioner Andrew Lee, who passes it to Cadet Peri Airemwen who carries the torch to the Grave of the Unknown Warrior, symbolising the passing of the duty of remembrance to the next generation

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.
Love is strong as death.

'Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.'

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Greater Love Hath No Man
John Ireland (1879–1962)

*Song of Solomon 8: 7a, 6b; John 15: 13a; 1 Peter 2: 24;
1 Corinthians 6: 11b; 1 Peter 2: 9; Romans 12: 1*

All kneel or remain seated as Intercessions are led by The Reverend Robert Latham, Precentor, The Reverend David Stanton, Canon in Residence, and The Venerable Andrew Hillier, Chaplain of the Fleet. At the end of each petition there is said

Lord, in thy mercy
hear our prayer.

The Canon in Residence concludes

As we look for the coming of the kingdom in its fullness, Lord teach us to pray,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The choir sings the Anthem

My soul, there is a country
Far beyond the stars,
Where stands a wingèd sentry
All skilful in the wars:

There above noise, and danger,
Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles,
And One born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.

He is thy gracious friend,
And (O my soul, awake!)
Did in pure love descend,
To die here for thy sake.

If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flower of Peace,
The Rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress, and thy ease.

Leave then thy foolish ranges,
For none can thee secure,
But One who never changes,
Thy God, thy Life, thy Cure.

*from Songs of Farewell
Hubert Parry (1848–1918)*

Henry Vaughan (1622–95)

All stand. The Dean leads the Reaffirmation

Let us commit ourselves anew to the service of God and a faithful remembrance.

Lord God, in this act of remembrance, we commit ourselves anew to faithfully serve your will in the cause of peace and justice, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your holy name. By the power of your spirit, grant us wisdom, courage, and hope to offer our lives to the sacrifice and service of the common good. Amen.

All sing the Hymn



Christ is the world's true Light,
its Captain of salvation,
the Daystar shining bright
to every man and nation;
new life, new hope awakes,
where'er men own his sway:
freedom her bondage breaks,
and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete,
from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is throned as Lord,
men shall forsake their fear,
to ploughshare beat the sword,
to pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great name
unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

*Nun danket 494ii NEH
in Johann Crüger's Praxis pietatis melica c 1647*

George Briggs (1875–1959)

The Dean pronounces the Blessing

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth, and all people peace and concord, and to us sinners, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing the National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save The King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The King.

Music after the service:

Cortège et Litanie Op 19

Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

**Please remain in your places
until invited to move by the Honorary Stewards**

*A retiring collection will be taken for
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal*