Westminster Abbey

A Service to Commemorate the Life of Florence Nightingale

Wednesday 13 May 2009
6.30 pm
THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE COMMEMORATION SERVICE

The Florence Nightingale Foundation is a living memorial to Florence Nightingale. In its activities, it

- advances the study of nursing and promotes excellence in nursing practice;
- raises funds to provide scholarships for nurses and midwives to study at home and abroad, to promote innovation in practice, to extend knowledge and skill to meet changing needs;
- promotes the special contribution of nursing to society and to the health of people;
- encourages international understanding and learning between nurses.

The service is held annually and during the ceremony processions take place that are of significance.

The Adjutant and Chelsea Pensioners process. Their participation is in memory of and, in gratitude to, Florence Nightingale for her care of the troops, who were their predecessors during the Crimean Campaign.

The Honorary Officers who process represent the Florence Nightingale Foundation. They embody the traditional link between nurses and voluntary lay people who work together in a charitable context, to develop and advance the practice of nursing and midwifery for the benefit of all those who need healthcare. Their endeavours pay constant tribute to the inspiration and example of Florence Nightingale and her great achievements.

The Honorary Officers of the Foundation are President Baroness Emerton; Vice-Presidents Mrs Maureen Acland, Dr Mona Grey, Miss Theo Noel Smith, the Lord Remnant, Colonel Tommy Tucker, and Mr Bryan Wilson; Chairman Mr Bryan Sanderson; Vice-Chairman Mr Geoffrey Walker; and Honorary Treasurer Mr Geoffrey Blacker.

The NURSES’ ROLL OF HONOUR was compiled by the British Commonwealth Nurses’ War Memorial Fund and is kept in the Nurses’ Chapel in the North Ambulatory of Westminster Abbey, which can be visited at any time on request to the Vergers. The bearer of the Roll, who this year will be Squadron-Leader Charlotte Thompson, is escorted by the three Matrons-in-Chief of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces.

The LAMP was given by Sir Dan Mason OBE in memory of his mother, Kathleen Dampier-Bennett, and is kept in the Nurses’ Chapel. This year the Lamp will be carried by Florence Nightingale Scholar Eileen Moir, Director of Nursing, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland. A unique feature of this year’s service is that the Lamp will be escorted by student nurses from ten of the universities of Scotland.

On arrival before the altar the Lamp will be handed to Florence Nightingale Scholar Peter Murphy, Nurse Consultant Critical Care Services, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. He will pass the Lamp to Florence Nightingale Scholar Deborah Marriage, Paediatric Respiratory Nurse Specialist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children. This represents the passing-on of knowledge from one nurse to another and highlights the diversity of care given by nurses for the benefit of humanity.

The Address will be given by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

The First Lesson will be read by Professor Dame Christine Beasley DBE, Chief Nursing Officer, England. The Second Lesson will be read by the Lord Leitch, Chairman, BUPA.
Most of the church, with the exception of the North Transept, is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

Please ensure that mobile phones, cellular phones, and pagers are switched OFF.

The service is sung by the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir, conducted by James O’Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist.

Please join in singing the hymns and in saying the words printed in **bold type**.

**Music before the service:**

*James McVinnie, Assistant Organist, plays:*

Sonata in F minor Op 65 no 1  
*Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)*

*The Adjutant and Chelsea Pensioners move from the West End of the Church to their places in the Lantern. All remain seated.*

*The Officers and Honorary Officers of The Florence Nightingale Foundation move to their places in the Quire. All remain seated.*

*The Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and is conducted to his place in the Quire.*

All remain seated.
ORDER OF SERVICE

The Choir moves to the east end of the Nave. All stand.

The Choir sings

THE INTROIT

Jesu, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills my breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)  Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153)
translated by Edward Caswall (1814–78)

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN

during which the Collegiate Procession,
together with Hospital Chaplains of several Christian denominations,
moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Slane 239 NEH  Jan Struther (1901–53)
traditional Ulster melody
All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, says

THE BIDDING

We stand together in the presence of almighty God to offer him our worship, praise, and thanksgiving. Let us prepare to hear and receive God’s holy word and to bring before God the needs of our world.

Above all we shall thank God for the enterprise, heroism, and example of Florence Nightingale. We praise God for all those nurses who, like her, have carried the lamp of healing into the dark places of our world, praying especially for those who serve in places of war and conflict. We pray that her ideals of compassion, quality of care, and training may continue to inspire and sustain nurses everywhere.

In a moment of silence let us remember that to which we each are called and prepare to dedicate ourselves anew to the service of all in need.

A brief silence is kept. The Dean then says:

Let us confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

All remain standing and say together

THE CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The Dean says

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
The Dean says:

As our Saviour has taught us, so we 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, forever and ever. Amen.

All sit. Professor Dame Christine Beasley DBE, from the Nave Pulpit, reads

1 KINGS 17: 17–24

While Elijah was living in Zarephath; The son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She then said to Elijah, What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!’ But he said to her, ‘Give me your son.’ He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed. He cried out to the Lord, ‘O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?’ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the Lord, ‘O Lord my God, let this child’s life come into him again.’ The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, ‘See, your son is alive.’ So the woman said to Elijah, ‘Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.’

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All remain seated. The Choir sings:

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may bide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth.

Thomas Tallis (c1505–85) John 14: 15–16
The Lord Leitch, Chairman of BUPA, from the Lectern, reads

MARK 2: 1–12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ‘Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, ‘Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to say, “Stand up and take your mat and walk?” But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the paralytic—‘I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.’ And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this!’

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountains grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God his Son not sparing,
send him to die—I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home—what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

All sit for

THE PROCESSION OF THE ROLL OF HONOUR

The British Commonwealth Nurses’ Roll of Honour is borne in silence from the Chapel of
St George through the Nave to the Sacrarium.

The Reverend Graeme Napier, Minor Canon of Westminster, says:

Let us remember those Nurses and Midwives who answered God’s call and gave their
lives in the Second World War while caring for the sick and wounded and whose names
are recorded in the Nurses’ Roll of Honour.

The bearer of the Roll, Squadron-Leader Charlotte Thompson, is escorted by the three
Matrons-in-Chief of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces.

The Roll of Honour is received by The Dean and is placed near the High Altar.

The Dean says:

God our Father, we praise your holy name for all who lived and died in the service of
others and are now at rest in Christ. Their example has encouraged us, their witness has
inspired us, and the memory of them makes us glad today. For them all we thank you, we
honour and we worship you, as they do now by your grace and in your glory; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
All stand to sing

THE HYMN

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there’s another country, I’ve heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Thaxted 295 AMNS
Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Cecil Spring Rice (1859–1918)

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by
The Very Reverend Dr John Hall
Dean of Westminster

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e’en for his own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through death’s dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.
My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God’s house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Crimond 459 NEH
Jessie Seymour Irvine (1836–87)

Psalm 23 in Scottish Psalter 1650

All sit for

THE PROCESSION OF THE LAMP

The Lamp is carried by Eileen Moir and escorted by student nurses from ten of the universities of Scotland.

On arrival in the Sacrarium the Lamp is passed to Peter Murphy who passes it to Deborah Marriage to represent the passing-on of knowledge. It is then offered to The Dean, who places it on the High Altar.

The Minor Canon says:
Let us dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of those who need our care today.

All say together:

May this Lamp signify
our sacred calling to serve the sick and injured,
which was heard and answered by Florence Nightingale,
passed on from generation to generation,
and received with gladness and humility by us today.

The Dean says:
Jesus said, ‘Like the lamp, you must shed light among your fellows, so that, when they see the good you do, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.’

Matthew 5: 16

O God, the Father of lights, from you comes every good and perfect gift: we thank you for Florence Nightingale and for her vision, courage, and compassion, of which this Lamp is the undying symbol. Kindle our hearts we pray, by the fire of your Holy Spirit, so that we may shine for you in the darkness of human suffering and sorrow; through him who is the light of the world, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.
The Choir sings:

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

Charles François Gounod (1818–93) after Luke 1: 28, 42
after Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

All kneel or remain seated for

THE INTERCESSIONS

The Minor Canon says:

Let us pray to God our Father, whose mercy is everlasting.

We pray for all who promote health and who care for the sick, both in hospitals and elsewhere; for nurses in training and for those who teach them; for all engaged in research; for the work of the Florence Nightingale Foundation, and, in its seventy-fifth anniversary year, for the International Florence Nightingale Foundation.

Lord, hear us: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those who promote health care within Her Majesty’s Armed Forces, especially those serving in places of war, or in places of conflict and great human tragedy; for their wellbeing and morale:

Lord, hear us: Lord, graciously hear us.

We give thanks this year for the one hundred and fifty years of service given by District Nurses to this nation, and we pray for all those involved in caring for people in their own homes.

Lord, hear us: Lord, graciously hear us.
For those who exercise stewardship, make policy, and allocate resources within the field of health care:

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; for the terminally ill, the elderly, and the frail; for the disabled, and for those who experience pain:

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Remember in your kingdom, O Lord, those who have faithfully served you here and are now at rest, and grant us with them, and all the faithful departed, the joys of your salvation.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Help us, O Lord, by your grace, so to fulfil the purpose for which in your wisdom you created us and in your love you redeemed us; that all our days on earth may be of service to others, and may realise among us today your kingdom and your glory, through him who took the form of a servant, even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Choir sings:*

> God be in my head, and in my understanding;
> God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
> God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
> God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
> God be at mine end, and at my departing.

*Henry Walford Davies (1869–1941)*

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*from Pynson’s Horae 1514*
THE HYMN

during which a collection is taken for
the Florence Nightingale Foundation

I danced in the morning when the world was begun.
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

_Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I’ll lead you all in the dance, said he._

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John—
they came with me and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black—
it’s hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I’d gone;
but I’m the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I’ll live in you if you’ll live in me—
I am the Lord of the Dance said he.
All remain standing. The Dean says:

Almighty God, whose Son taught us that every service done for others is done for him: give us the wisdom, the will, and the strength to be living examples of this truth, that in serving one another we may glorify him, our Saviour and our Lord. Amen.

The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen, and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

All remain standing as the Collegiate Procession, together with Hospital Chaplains of several Christian denominations, moves to the west end of the church.

Music after the service:

The organist plays:

Finale from Symphonie VI

Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

The bells of the Abbey church are rung.

Scripture Readings are from the NRSV.
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The Florence Nightingale Foundation wishes to thank BUPA for its support on this occasion.

Donations, legacies, or sponsorship make a great difference to the achievement of the Foundation’s aims and objectives.

To fund the Foundation’s work requires the support of well-wishers both new and present. If you feel able to assist our valuable work, you may wish to become a Friend of The Florence Nightingale Foundation.

Please visit our website <www.florence-nightingale-foundation.org.uk>, telephone us on 020 7730 3030, or fax us on 020 7730 6262