Westminster Abbey

A Service to Commemorate the Life of Florence Nightingale

Wednesday 8th May 2013
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, and to extend knowledge and skill to meet changing needs;
● promotes the special contribution of nursing to society and to the health of people; and
● encourages international understanding and learning between nurses and midwives.

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

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-President Mr Bryan Wilson; Honorary Vice-Presidents Mrs Mary Spinks and Mr Geoffrey Walker; Chairman Mr Bryan Sanderson; Vice-Chairmen Mr Richard Beazley and Professor Shona Brown; and Honorary Treasurer Dr Colin Reeves.

The Nurses’ Roll of Honour was compiled by the British Commonwealth Nurses’ War Memorial Fund and is kept in the Florence Nightingale Chapel (formerly 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 Petty Officer Bernadette Quinn, Queen Alexandra’s Royal Naval Nursing Service, 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 Florence Nightingale Chapel. This year the Lamp will be carried by Florence Nightingale Scholar David Wright. The Lamp will be escorted by student nurses and midwives from De Montfort University, Leicester.

On arrival before the altar the Lamp will be handed to Florence Nightingale Scholar Joanne McPeake. She will pass the Lamp to Florence Nightingale Foundation Scholar Jennifer Tarver.

This represents the transmission 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 Mark Bostridge, author of Florence Nightingale: The Woman and her Legend.

The first lesson will be read by Jane Cummings, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS England. The second lesson will be read by Michael Roberts, Master, the Girdlers’ Company.
The Church 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 Martin Ford, Assistant Organist.

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

Music before the service:

Peter Holder, Organ Scholar, plays:

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren BWV 648 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Sursum Corda Edward Elgar (1857–1934)
arranged by Edwin Henry Lemare (1865–1934)

Ave Maria, Ave Maris Stella Jean Langlais (1907–91)
from Trois Paraphrases Grégoriennes

Elegy George Thalben-Ball (1896–1987)

The Adjutant and Chelsea Pensioners move from the west end of the Church to their places in the Lantern. All remain seated.

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

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received and conducted to her place in Quire. All stand, and then sit.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand. The Choir sings

THE INTROIT

To thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul: my God, I trust in thee.

Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninoff (1873–1943) Psalm 25: 1
from the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

All sing

THE HYMN

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o’er the world’s tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o’er us:
al all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

Mannheim 393 NEH James Edmeston (1791–1867)
from Friedrich Filiz’s Choralbuch 1847
All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

WELCOME to Westminster Abbey, which has seen so many occasions of joy and sorrow and remembrance. We come into the presence of almighty God to offer our worship, praise, and thanksgiving. In particular, we thank God for Florence Nightingale: for her enterprise and heroism, and for the example she has left us.

We pray that her ideals of compassion, quality of care, and training may continue to inspire and sustain nurses everywhere. We praise God for all those nurses who, like her, have carried the lamp of healing into the dark places of our world.

In a moment of silence, let us prepare to hear and receive God’s holy word and to bring before God the needs of our world. Let us remember with pride the vocation we have each received, 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 gives

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.
FOR I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. 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. Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

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 (c 1505–85)  
St John 14: 15–16

All remain seated. Michael Roberts, Master, the Girdlers’ Company, reads from the Nave Pulpit

ST JOHN 11: 1–6; 17–44

NOW a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, ‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ But when Jesus heard it,
said, ‘This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

This is the word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.
All stand to sing

THE HYMN

THE King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death’s dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread’st a table in my sight;
thy unction, grace bestoweth:
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Dominus regit me 457ii NEH
Psalm 23
versified by Henry Williams Baker (1821–77)

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 Sacramium.
The Reverend Dr James Hawkey, Minor Canon and Sacrist, 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, whose names are recorded in the Nurses’ Roll of Honour, and those who have given their lives in subsequent conflicts.

The bearer of the Roll, Petty Officer Bernadette Quinn, Queen Alexandra’s Royal Naval Nursing Service, 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 you, 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)
THE ADDRESS
by
Mark Bostridge
*author of* Florence Nightingale: The Woman and Her Legend

All remain seated for

THE PROCESSION OF THE LAMP

*The Lamp is carried by David Wright, and escorted by student nurses and midwives from De Montfort University, Leicester.*

On arrival at the Sacrarium, the Lamp is passed to Joanne McPeake, who passes it to Jennifer Tarver to represent the transmission of knowledge. It is then offered to the Dean, who places it on the High Altar.

*The Sacrist 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 whom 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

THE ANTHEM

O CLAP your hands, all ye people: shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible: he is a great King over all the earth.
God is gone up with a shout: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God: sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises every one that hath understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.
Sing praises unto our King; sing praises.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) Psalm 47: 1–2, 5–8

All kneel or remain seated for

THE INTERCESSIONS

The Sacrist says:

Let us pray to God our Father, whose Son came that we may have life.

Professor Elizabeth Robb, Chief Executive, The Florence Nightingale Foundation, continues:

We give thanks for the life and work of Florence Nightingale, and for the lives of those she inspired to serve others in showing care and compassion. We pray for the continued work of The Florence Nightingale Foundation and for the significant contribution to clinical care made by its scholars.

Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health, says:

For all who promote health and wellbeing in policy and practice; for nurses who care for the sick, both in hospital and at home; for nurses in training and for those who teach them; and for all engaged in research:

Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.
Bryan Sanderson, Chairman, The Florence Nightingale Foundation, says:

FOR all those who promote healthcare within the Armed Forces, remembering especially those currently serving in theatres of conflict. For those who exercise stewardship, make policy, and allocate resources; and for those who are serving in places of great human tragedy:

Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Reverend Mark Burleigh, Head of Chaplaincy and Bereavement Services, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, says:

FOR those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; for those who are frail, elderly or terminally ill; for all who experience pain, and for those who live with disability:

Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Sacrist concludes:

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

Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Sacrist 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 stand to sing

THE HYMN

during which a collection is taken for The Florence Nightingale Foundation

My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.
    Glory, glory, Hallelujah!
    His truth is marching on.

He hath sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgement seat:
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant my feet!
    Our God is marching on.
    Glory, glory, Hallelujah!
    Our God is marching on.

I have seen him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps:
they have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I have read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps:
his day is marching on.
    Glory, glory, Hallelujah!
    His day is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me:
as he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
while God is marching on.
    Glory, glory, Hallelujah!
    While God is marching on.

Battle-Hymn of the Republic 242 H&P
traditional American melody
collected and edited by William Steffe (1830–90)

Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910)
All remain standing. 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 sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

All remain standing as the Procession moves to the west end of the Church.

Music after the service:

Toccata  
Marcel Lanquetuit (1894–1985)

The bells of the Abbey church are rung.
The Florence Nightingale Foundation wishes to thank De Montfort University, Leicester 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 in the valuable work of the Foundation, you may like to visit our website www.florence-nightingale-foundation.org.uk or telephone us on 020–7730 3030 or fax us on 020–7730 6262