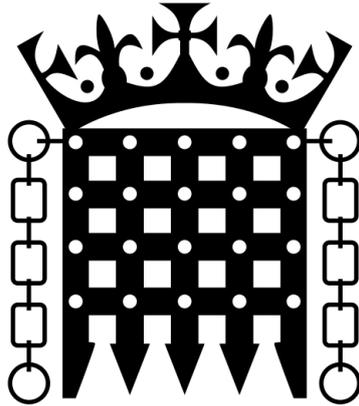


# St Margaret's Church

Westminster Abbey



A Service for Parliament  
to mark the Centenary  
of the end of the First World War

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018

2.00 pm

## PARLIAMENT AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

No one in the United Kingdom was immune to the horrors of the First World War, whether they were at the front, in a reserved occupation, or an anxious relative beset with worry on behalf of loved ones. Parliament—its Members and staff—were no different. 264 MPs served in the First World War, with 22 of these making the ultimate sacrifice. Of the 323 members of the Lords who served, 24 were killed and the Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith (later Earl of Oxford and Asquith) lost his son Raymond at the Battle of the Somme. Many more Members' sons and House staff were also killed, now remembered on the war memorial in Westminster Hall.

The centenary of the end of the First World War is a good moment to reflect on how democracy operated in a time of crisis and how the balance between security and liberties was managed. As the war progressed, MPs travelled back and forth from the front line to debate and vote on key legislation in Parliament. The laws passed significantly influenced the strategy of the war and wider social changes. For example, the Munitions of War Act 1915 facilitated a huge increase in women entering the workplace, whilst the Military Service Act 1916 introduced conscription to sustain the war effort.

The role that women played in the war must not be forgotten, and the centenary offers a chance to reveal some of their voices, such as that of 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscountess Rhondda: a suffragette and daughter of an MP, she survived the sinking of the Lusitania and helped to rally women to serve both on the Home Front and in France. She also went on to fight a famous test case in an attempt to take her seat in the House of Lords.

*Speaker's Advisory Group on World War One Commemorations*

*Members of the congregation are kindly requested 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 Reverend Jane Sinclair, Rector of St Margaret's Church.*

*The service is sung by the Choir of St Margaret's Church, conducted by Richard Pearce.*

*The organ is played by James McVinnie.*

*Music before the service*

*Prelude in E flat BWV 552i*

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

*Elegy*

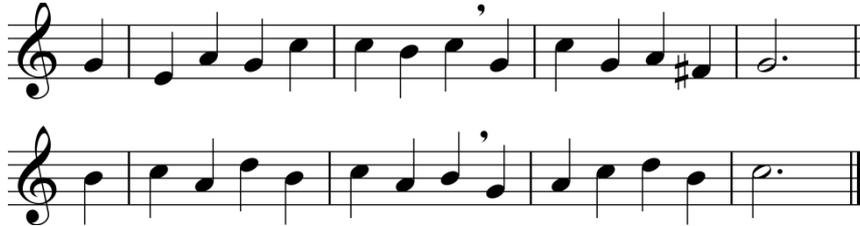
*George Thalben-Ball (1896–1987)*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand to sing*

## THE HYMN

*during which the procession enters the church,  
and two candles, one of Remembrance and one of Peace, are borne to the Sanctuary.*



**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.

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.

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

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

*The Reverend Jane Sinclair, Rector of St Margaret's Church, gives*

## THE BIDDING

ONE hundred years ago this week parliamentarians gathered in the House of Commons and the House of Lords to receive the formal announcement of the acceptance of the terms of the Armistice imposed on Germany by the Allies and the United States of America. On hearing the news, both Houses immediately left their chambers, and came here to St Margaret's to give thanks to God for the cessation of hostilities after four years of unforgiving and traumatic warfare.

Today we commemorate a pivotal moment in the history of this nation, and of Europe and the wider world. We remember the sacrifices of those parliamentarians and parliamentary officers and staff who gave their lives during the First World War, or who were injured. We remember those politicians and civil servants whose decisions governed the conduct of the war, and the unexpected results which emerged. Not least, the experience of the First World War accelerated the beginnings of suffrage for women, and opened the possibility of women standing as candidates for election to Parliament. It saw the abolition of property and other restrictions on the franchise for men; and the opening up of employment opportunities in a wide range of workplaces, previously open to men alone, including posts on the parliamentary estate.

We remember, too, the hard truth that the First World War did not prove to be the hoped-for war to end all wars. On behalf of the nation, Parliament has had to face the consequences of armed conflict throughout the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

We make our remembrance today in order to re-commit ourselves to the cause of peace with justice, not only for this nation, but for the world of which we are a part. We give thanks for the faithful service of those who have gone before us, and pray for the gifts of God's mercy, wisdom and guidance in the years to come.

*The Rector says*

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

**O** GOD, who wouldest fold both heaven and earth in a single peace: let the design of thy great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows; and give peace to thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings, and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All sit. The Right Honourable John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, reads*

## THE FIRST READING

Immediately after Prayers, the PRIME MINISTER, Mr. Lloyd George, rose, and said:

**M**R. Speaker, I beg to move, 'That this House do now adjourn.' The Armistice, as has already been announced in the Press, was signed this morning at five o'clock, after a discussion which was prolonged all night. Thus at eleven o'clock this morning came to an end the cruellest and most terrible War that has ever scourged mankind. I hope we may say that thus, this fateful morning, came to an end all wars. This is no time for words. Our hearts are too full of a gratitude to which no tongue can give adequate expression. I will, therefore, move "That this House do immediately adjourn, until this time To-morrow, and that we proceed, as a House of Commons, to St. Margaret's, to give humble and reverent thanks for the deliverance of the world from its great peril."

*Hansard, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918*

*The choir sings*

## THE PSALM

**G**OD 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.

*after Martin Luther (1483–1546)*

*Psalm 46*

*The Right Honourable The Lord Fowler, Lord Speaker, reads*

## THE SECOND READING

**W**HEN Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

*St Matthew 5: 1–16*

## THE ADDRESS

*by*

The Right Reverend Tim Thornton  
Bishop at Lambeth and Bishop to the Forces

*All stand to sing*

THE HYMN



**T**HY kingdom come, O God,  
thy rule, O Christ, begin;  
break with thine iron rod  
the tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace  
and purity and love?  
When shall all hatred cease,  
as in the realms above?

*The choir sings* When comes the promised time  
that war shall be no more,  
and lust, oppression, crime,  
shall flee thy face before?

*All sing* We pray thee Lord, arise,  
and come in thy great might;  
revive our longing eyes,  
which languish for thy sight.

O'er lands both near and far  
thick darkness broodeth yet:  
arise, O morning Star,  
arise, and never set.

*St Cecilia 499 NEH*  
*Leighton Hayne (1836–83)*

*Lewis Hensley (1824–1905)*

*All remain standing. The Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, leads*

## THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping, those who have died for their country in war, those whom we knew and whose memory we treasure, and all who have lived and died in the service of humanity.

*Silence is kept.*

*The choir sings*

**T**HEY 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.  
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 for*

## THE LAST POST

### REVEILLE

*The Speaker's Chaplain says*

When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

*The Kohima Epitaph*

**E**VER-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All remain standing for*

## THE ACT OF COMMITMENT

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

**L**ORD God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all people in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your holy name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful, now and always. Amen.

*The Reverend Jennifer Petersen, Minor Canon and Chaplain, and Members of the UK Youth Parliament, lead*

## THE PRAYERS

Let us pray to the One who causes light to shine out of darkness, fount of hope and life of the world.

*All kneel or sit.*

*Ian Volkov says*

**F**OR all who gave themselves in service to this nation during the First World War; for the sacrifice of those in the Armed Forces and for the contribution of men and women across the Empire who offered themselves in service to the Crown.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Jessica Minton says*

**F**OR the valuable work of Parliament throughout the war years; for the sacrifice and service of members of the Houses of Commons and Lords, their families and House staff; for the greater participation of women in the civil service; and for the continuation and growth of democracy.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Dominic Jones says*

**F**OR the health and happiness of our nation; for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and all members of the Royal Family; for all who serve the public good both nationally and locally, and for Her Majesty's Armed Forces deployed throughout the world.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Oliver McCourty says*

**F**OR nations, peoples, and communities divided or at war, and for people of conscience and goodwill, of all faiths and none, who strive after peace and the flourishing of humankind.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Shanté Jackson says*

**F**OR a deeper sense of gratitude for the freedom we enjoy; that we may be renewed in our love of all that is good and holy; and for the grace and strength to continue the never-ending work of diplomacy and peace-making.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*The Speaker's Chaplain says*

**A**LMIGHTY God, by whom alone kings reign, and princes decree justice; and from whom alone cometh all counsel, wisdom, and understanding: we most humbly beseech thee to send down thy heavenly wisdom from above to direct and guide thy servants who sit as representatives of the people in Parliament. Grant we beseech thee, that, having thy grace always before their eyes, and laying aside all private interests, prejudices and partial affections, the result of their labours may be the glory of thy blessed name, the maintenance of true religion and justice, and the wealth, peace, and tranquillity of all our people. And so unite and knit together the hearts of all our people in true Christian love and charity that we may ever praise thee in thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Parliamentary Prayer*

*The Chaplain concludes*

As we look for the coming of the kingdom in its fullness, Lord teach us to pray:

**O**UR 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 HYMN



ALL my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light, and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore  
from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from man to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

*The Rector pronounces*

## THE BLESSING

**G**OD grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind 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

**G**OD 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 choir and clergy depart.*

*Music after the service*

Fugue in E flat BWV 552ii

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

**Members of the congregation are requested to remain in their places until invited to move by the Honorary Stewards.**

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