

Westminster Abbey



A service to celebrate the
contribution of
Christians in the Middle East

Tuesday 4th December 2018
5.00 pm

CHRISTIANITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES

The Prince of Wales has worked, over many years, to encourage greater understanding between people of different religions, both in Britain and abroad. His Royal Highness has often spoken about the importance he attaches to this, most notably in March 2006 when The Prince addressed over 800 Islamic scholars at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, and called for greater dialogue between the three Abrahamic faiths: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. His Royal Highness was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University for his work to encourage inter-faith dialogue, becoming the first Western man to receive this honour.

The Prince of Wales has paid close attention to the challenges faced by Christians in parts of the Middle East, and has regularly expressed his concern about the difficult situations that so many of them endure, and his support for those communities most affected.

In 2014 The Prince of Wales visited the Iraqi Chaldean Christian community at the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Family in Acton, London. During that visit, he met members of the congregation who had experience and escaped persecution in Iraq. In December 2016 His Royal Highness met with members of the Iraqi Chaldean Catholic and Syriac Catholic community at an Advent reception hosted by Cardinal Vincent Nichols at Archbishop's House in London. In recent years, The Prince has also joined Advent services at the Coptic Orthodox Church Centre in Stevenage and the Syrian Orthodox Church in Acton.

In December 2017 His Royal Highness visited the Melkite Greek-Catholic community who worship at St. Barnabas Church in Pimlico, where he met families who had escaped persecution in the Middle East, and joined a short service of prayer for persecuted Christians around the world.

His Royal Highness, in 2016, recorded a special Christmas edition of Thought for the Day, in which he explored how surviving persecution is a theme which unites all religions. In his 2018 Easter Message The Prince of Wales noted how 'deeply moved and humbled' he has been by the remarkable courage and selfless capacity for forgiveness shown by Christians who suffer so much for their Faith.



CLERGY REPRESENTING CHURCHES OF THE MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA

His Grace Suheil Dawani
*Archbishop, Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and
Primate, Episcopal (Anglican) Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East*

His Holiness Mar Gewargis III
Catholicos-Patriarch, Assyrian Church of the East

His Eminence Yohanna Mouche
Archbishop, Syriac Catholic Archeparchy of Mosul

His Excellency Maroun Nasser Gemayel
Bishop, Maronite Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Paris

His Excellency Habib Jajou
Archbishop, Chaldean Catholic Archeparchy of Basra

His Grace Issam John Darwish
*Archbishop, Melkite (Greek Catholic)
Archeparchy of Zahle, Forzol, and the Bekaa*

His Grace Armash Nalbandian
*Bishop, Armenian Orthodox Diocese of Damascus
(Catholicosate of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin)*

His Eminence Nareg Almezian
*Archbishop, Armenian Orthodox Diocese of Lebanon
(Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia)*

His Eminence Angaelos
Archbishop, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of London

His Eminence Athanasius Toma Dawod
Archbishop, Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of the United Kingdom

His Eminence Ignatius Alhoshi
*Archbishop, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of France, Western and
Southern Europe (Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East)*

His Eminence Gregorios Theocharous
*Archbishop, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain
(Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople)*

His Beatitude Theophilos III
Patriarch, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem

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 Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by an octet from the Special Service Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist.

The organ is played by Alexander Hamilton, Organ Scholar.

Music before the service

Tocatta and Fugue Op 59 no 5–6 *Max Reger (1873–1916)*

Herzlich tut mich verlangen Op 122 no 10 *Johannes Brahms (1833–97)*
Herzlich tut mich erfreuen Op 122 no 4

Attende Domine *Jeanne Demessieux (1921–68)*

Chant de Paix *Jean Langlais (1907–91)*

Postlude pour l’office de complies *Jehan Alain (1911–40)*

Members of the Diplomatic Corps are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and conducted to their seats.

The Right Honourable David Lidington CBE MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and conducted to his seat.

Mr Charles Spicer, High Sheriff of Greater London, and Dr David Dangoor DL, representing Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and conducted to their seats.

Councillor The Lady Flight, Lord Mayor of Westminster Locum Tenens, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. All stand as she is conducted to her seat, and then sit.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. All stand.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

The Coptic Diocesan Choir sings

THE INTROIT

during which the clergy process to places in the Sacrarium

ΠΟΤΡΟ ἢ τε τῆ ρηνη: μοι ναη ἢ τε κερηνη: σευνη ναη ἢ τε κερηνη: χα ηεννοβι ναη
ἐβολ. Χωρ ἐβολ ἢ νιζαχι: ἢ τε τῆ κκλησιᾶ: ἀρισοβτ ερος: ἢ ηεσκιυ ψα ἐνεβ.
Εμμανοτηλ ηεννοτῆ: δεη τεμηητ ῆνοτ: δεη ἢ ωοτ ἢ τε ηερωτ: ηευ ἢ ἢ ηα εθοταβ.
ἢ τε τῆ μοτ ἐρον τηρεη: ἢ τε τῆ τοβο ἢ ηεηηητ: ἢ τε τῆ ταλβο ἢ ηηωωνη: ἢ τε ηεν ἢ χη ηευ
ηενσωμα. ἢ ενοτωτ ἢ μοκ ὠ ἢ χς: ηευ ηεκιωτ ἢ ἢ γαθοσ: ηευ ἢ ἢ ηα εθοταβ: γε ακι
ακωτ ἢ ἢ ηον ηαι ναη.

O King of peace, grant us your peace, confirm your peace, and forgive us our sins. Disperse the enemies of the Church and fortify her to be unshakable for ever. Emmanuel our God now is in our midst in his Father's glory, and the Holy Spirit. May he bless us all, and purify our hearts, and heal the sicknesses of our souls and bodies. We worship you, O Christ, with your Good Father and the Holy Spirit, for you have come and saved us.

Ποτρο

O King of Peace

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE BIDDING

IN this Advent season, as we approach the celebration of Christmas, our hearts and minds turn to the cradle of our civilisation, and in particular to Bethlehem as the birth-place of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So we pray for all the people of the Holy Land and of the surrounding nations. We pray that they may live in harmony one with another, respecting difference and celebrating common humanity. And we pray for peace within each nation and between all peoples of whatever faith.

In particular we give thanks for the Christian communities there and for their religious leaders. And we pray for them that they may continue faithfully to witness to the love of God revealed in his Son Jesus Christ. Above all, we pray that God's kingdom of righteousness and justice may come everywhere on earth, as it is in heaven.

All sit for

THE REFLECTION

by

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

The octet sings

THE ANTHEM

SICUT cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.

*As the deer longs for the water brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c 1525–94)

Psalms 42: 1

THE TESTIMONY

by

Sister Nazek Matty

Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Sienna, Iraq

THE REFLECTION

by

Maulana Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi

Director General and Chief Imam, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society

Mr Bob Fyffe, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, reads

THE FIRST READING

THE Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

‘Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped”?

Job 38: 1–11

The octet sings

THE PSALM

THOU, O God, art praised in Sion :
and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.
Thou that hearest the prayer :
unto thee shall all flesh come.
My misdeeds prevail against me :
O be thou merciful unto our sins.
Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and receivest unto thee :
he shall dwell in thy court, and shall be satisfied
with the pleasures of thy house, even of thy holy temple.
Thou shalt shew us wonderful things in thy righteousness,
O God of our salvation :
thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth,
and of them that remain in the broad sea.
Who in his strength setteth fast the mountains :
and is girded about with power.
Who stilleth the raging of the sea :
and the noise of his waves, and the madness of the people.
They also that dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth
shall be afraid at thy tokens :
thou that makest the outgoings
of the morning and evening to praise thee.
Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it :
thou makest it very plenteous.
The river of God is full of water :
thou preparest their corn, for so thou providest for the earth.
Thou waterest her furrows, thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof :
thou makest it soft with the drops of rain, and blessest the increase of it.
Thou crownest the year with thy goodness :
and thy clouds drop fatness.
They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness :
and the little hills shall rejoice on every side.
The folds shall be full of sheep :
the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn,
that they shall laugh and sing.

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.

James Turlle (1802–82), Organist of Westminster Abbey 1832–82

Psalm 65

THE SECOND READING

«وَلَيْسَ أَحَدٌ يُوقِدُ سِرَاجًا وَيُعْطِيهِ إِنَاءً أَوْ يَضَعُهُ تَحْتَ سَرِيرٍ، بَلْ يَضَعُهُ عَلَى مَنَارَةٍ، لِيُنْظَرَ الدَّاخِلُونَ النُّورَ. لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ خَفِيٌّ لَا يُظْهَرُ، وَلَا مَكْتُومٌ لَا يُعْلَمُ وَيُعْلَنُ فَانْظُرُوا كَيْفَ تَسْمَعُونَ، لِأَنَّ مَنْ لَهُ سَيُعْطَى، وَمَنْ لَيْسَ لَهُ فَالَّذِي يَطْنُهُ لَهُ يُؤْخَذُ مِنْهُ».

وَجَاءَ إِلَيْهِ أُمُّهُ وَإِخْوَتُهُ، وَلَمْ يَقْدِرُوا أَنْ يَصِلُوا إِلَيْهِ لِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ. فَأَخْبَرُوهُ قَائِلِينَ: «أُمُّكَ وَإِخْوَتُكَ وَاقِفُونَ خَارِجًا، يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَرُوكَ». فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «أُمِّي وَإِخْوَتِي هُمُ الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ وَيَعْمَلُونَ بِهَا».

Jesus said; 'No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.'

Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, 'Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.' But he said to them, 'My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.'

St Luke 8: 16–21

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



THE Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace ended.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Aurelia 167 NEH
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–76)

484 NEH
Samuel Stone (1839–1900)

THE ADDRESS

by

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England, and Metropolitan

The octet sings

THE ANTHEM

during which the congregational candles are lit

THE tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Elizabeth Poston (1905–85)

anonymous, from the collection of Joshua Smith, 1784

The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Precentor, introduces

THE PRAYERS

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to God our Father.

All kneel or remain seated.

The Very Reverend Dr Shafiq Abouzayd, Archimandrite, Melkite Greek Catholic Church, says

FOR Christians throughout the world whose witness to Christ shines forth as a burning lamp of hope in the midst persecution and violence; that their lives may be preserved, their faith strengthened, and their joy made complete.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London, says

FOR victims of terrorism and sectarian violence carried out in the name of religion; that hearts and minds bent on evil may be transformed for good after the example of Christ, whose will it is that all may have fullness of life.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Right Reverend Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Loughborough, says

FOR all people of conscience and goodwill, of all faiths and none, who work to deepen trust and foster friendships across religious, ethnic, and cultural boundaries; that our shared humanity might compel us to seek the peace which the world cannot give.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Father Timothy Radcliffe OP, says

FOR the flourishing of cities, towns, and villages across the Middle East and North Africa, and for a strengthening of the ancient bonds that have united families and communities throughout the centuries; that Christ may be known wherever charity and love prevail.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

CHRISt the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; 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 procession moves to the west end of the Abbey Church.

Music after the service

Prelude and Fugue in E flat BWV 552 *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to remain in their seats until directed to move by the Honorary Stewards.

In preparing this service, we are grateful for the assistance of

**Aid to the Church in Need
Embrace the Middle East
Open Doors**

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