

St Margaret's Church  
Westminster Abbey



A Service for the New Parliament

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
9.30 am

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

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

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

*The service is sung by the Choir of St Margaret's Church, conducted by Greg Morris, Director of Music.*

*The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, Westminster Abbey.*

*The organist plays:*

*Meditation on Brother James's Air* *Harold Darke (1888–1976)*

*Dies sind die heil'gen zehn Gebot' BWV 678* *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

*The Lord Speaker is received at the East Door. All stand as he is conducted to his seat, and then sit.*

*The Speaker of the House of Commons is received at the East Door. All stand as he is conducted to his seat, and then sit.*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand to sing*

## THE HYMN

**B**E thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
be thou my inheritance now and always,  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Slane 339 NEH*  
*traditional Irish melody*

*Irish, c 8<sup>th</sup> century, translated by Mary Byrne (1880–1931)*  
*and versified by Eleanor Hull (1860–1935)*

*All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, gives*

## THE WELCOME AND BIDDING

*The Bidding concludes*

**G**O before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Precentor, introduces*

## THE CONFESSION

**I**N the light of Christ's grace and strength, let us acknowledge our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his forgiveness.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;  
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;  
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;  
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others;  
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves;  
Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

**T**HE almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*All sit. The Right Honourable The Lord Fowler, Lord Speaker, reads*

## THE FIRST READING

**T**HESE are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah

son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

*Jeremiah 29: 1–7*

*All remain seated. 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.  
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 Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, reads*

## THE SECOND READING

**T**HIS is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Ephesians 3: 1–12*

*All remain seated. The choir sings*

## THE ANTHEM

**S**ING joyfully unto God our strength :  
sing loud unto the God of Jacob.  
Take the song, and bring forth the timbrel :  
the pleasant harp, and the viol.  
Blow the trumpet in the new moon :  
even in the time appointed, and at our feast-day.  
For this is a statute for Israel :  
and a law of the God of Jacob.

*William Byrd (c 1540–1623)*

*Psalms 81: 1–4*

## THE ADDRESS

*by*

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

*All stand to sing*

## THE HYMN

**A**LL 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.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth,  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand  
at his hand;  
joy doth wait on his command.

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.

*Michael 333 NEH*  
*Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

*Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander (1650–80)*  
*translated by Robert Bridges (1844–1930)*

*The Precentor leads*

## THE PRAYERS

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

*All kneel or sit.*

*The Reverend and Right Honourable The Baroness Sherlock OBE says*

**F**OR Her Majesty The Queen; for her Government and Loyal Opposition; for the leaders of the political parties; and for all who assist them in the discharge of their duties: that they may build up our common life, working together for the good of the whole nation. Mindful of their public service, we remember especially those Members of both Houses and parliamentary staff who have died since the last Parliament was formed.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**F**OR the Principal Officers of the Palace of Westminster: for the Speaker and the Lord Speaker, the Clerk of the House, the Clerk of the Parliaments, the Serjeant at Arms, and Black Rod, that they may properly enable the work of Government and serve diligently, without fear or favour.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Reverend Dr Martyn Atkins, Superintendent Minister, Methodist Central Hall, says*

**F**OR all staff who work within the Palace of Westminster, and for their families: that their lives might be enriched through their engagement with the life and business of Government.

Lord, in your mercy;  
**hear our prayer.**

**F**OR all who have been elected Members of the House of Commons: that they may represent their constituents with integrity and impartiality, and promote justice and equity among all people.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Reverend Mark Harris, Chaplain, Christians in Parliament APPG, says*

**F**OR all who sit in the House of Lords: for the Lords Spiritual, for all life peers and hereditary peers; that they may use their wisdom and experience for the better governing of this nation.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**F**OR Tricia Hillas, Chaplain-Designate to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and all Christians working in Parliament: that they may be endued with gifts of good counsel and true godliness, working faithfully for the coming of God's kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Canon Pat Browne, Roman Catholic Duty Priest in Parliament, says*

**F**OR the strengthening of our national values of democracy and tolerance; for God's protection against violence and acts of terrorism; that all may live and work in peace and freedom, with mutual trust and confidence.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**L**ORD, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her Government, to Members of Parliament and to all in positions of responsibility the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals; but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. **Amen.**

*The Parliamentary Prayer*

*The Precentor concludes*

All these our prayers and praises let us now present before our heavenly Father, in the prayer our Saviour Christ has taught us:

**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.

*All stand to sing*

### THE HYMN

**P**RAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
come ye who hear,  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:  
hast thou not seen  
all that is needful hath been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
ponder anew  
all the Almighty can do,  
he who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen  
sound from his people again:  
gladly for ay we adore him.

*Lobe den Herren 440 NEH*  
*Praxis pietatis melica 1668*

*Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren*  
*Joachim Neander (1650–80)*  
*translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)*

*All remain standing. The Dean pronounces*

### THE BLESSING

**G**O forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Music after the service:*

Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 545

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

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

## THE CHAPEL OF ST MARY UNDERCROFT

### *Holy Communion services*

The Chapel seeks to be a place of refuge, peace, and reflection amidst the busy nature of our working lives. Holy Communion services, led by the Speaker's Chaplain, are held in the Chapel, whilst the Houses are sitting, each Wednesday at 10.15 am and 12.45 pm. Each service lasts half an hour. Twice a month, at the 12.45 pm service, there is a Sung Eucharist with the Undercroft Choir.

There is a Roman Catholic Mass at 6.00 pm every Wednesday whilst the Houses are sitting, led by the Roman Catholic Duty Priest, Father Pat Browne. All are welcome.

One Wednesday per month (for Members and Peers only), there is a service of Holy Communion in St Margaret's Church at 7.45 am. This is followed by a light breakfast, including a speaker sharing on a chosen topic. We end at 9.00 am sharp.

### *Other services*

The Chapel also hosts services for other Christian groups in Parliament, including the Conservative Christian Fellowship, Christians on the left, the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum, and the Cross Party group Christians in Parliament.

The Chapel of St Mary Undercroft is available for the following services at which The Speaker's Chaplain officiates:

- baptisms of Members or staff of both Houses with at least two years' service, and their direct descendants;
- weddings and services of blessing for Members or staff of both Houses with at least two years' service, and their direct descendants;
- memorial services to commemorate the death of Members or staff of both Houses (this privilege available when the deceased was a Member or member of staff at the time of death)

*The Chapel is a Royal Peculiar controlled by the Lord Great Chamberlain and under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Dean of Westminster. Before applying in writing, it is helpful to discuss the dates and confirm the availability of the Chapel with the Clerk to the Lord Great Chamberlain, Mr John Box (boxjb@parliament.uk).*

## CHRISTIANS IN PARLIAMENT ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Christians in Parliament works to support Members and Staff of all parties in their work in the Houses of Parliament, through Tuesday services in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft (1.15–1.45 pm), lectures in The Speaker's House, Bible study, prayer groups, exploring Christianity courses, and the annual National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. For further information, please visit [www.christiansinparliament.org.uk](http://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk) or email [claire.newman@parliament.uk](mailto:claire.newman@parliament.uk) or [james.lee@parliament.uk](mailto:james.lee@parliament.uk).

## ST MARGARET'S CHURCH WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Westminster Abbey was built as part of a Benedictine monastery, and as a sacred place for the crowning and burial of the English kings and queens. Since it was never intended to serve the needs of the local community, in about 1150 a parish church was built by the Abbey's monks to be the parish church for the people of Westminster.

The church, immediately adjacent to the Abbey, was dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, a fourth-century saint whose colourful but apocryphal legend appealed to mediaeval piety. The present building, the third St Margaret's on this site, was begun about 1488 and consecrated on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1523. In the reign of Edward VI, Lord Protector Somerset wanted to pull down the church to provide stone for his great new palace on the Thames, Somerset House, but the citizens of Westminster turned out in force with bows, clubs, and staves, and sent the workmen packing!

St Margaret's has played a major part in the local history of Westminster for many centuries, and has associations with many historic figures: Geoffrey Chaucer, William Caxton, John Milton, and Samuel Pepys worshipped regularly in the Church; Sir Walter Raleigh's body was buried here after his execution in October 1618; and Sir Winston Churchill was married at St Margaret's in 1908.

On Palm Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 1614, the Speaker of the House of Commons led Members of Parliament to St Margaret's for a corporate celebration of Holy Communion, thus beginning an association with St Margaret's and the House of Commons so that even today St Margaret's is popularly known as 'the parish church of the House of Commons'. The front pew on the right hand side is reserved for The Speaker. The House came to the church for a Thanksgiving Service at the end of the Second World War in 1945, and to mark the opening of the new Chamber of the Commons in 1950. In 1972, because the resident population of the parish had shrunk to only a few hundred people, St Margaret's ceased to be a parish church and was merged with Westminster Abbey by Act of Parliament. However, Members of both Houses, and the officers and staff of the Palace of Westminster, often come to St Margaret's for their weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and other occasions.