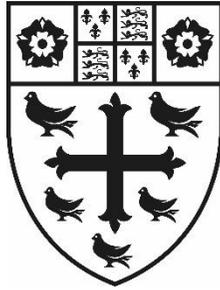


# Westminster Abbey



## A Service

to mark the opening of the Legal Year  
in England and Wales

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020  
11.30 am



*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 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 David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster.*

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

*The organ is played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.*

*Music before the service*

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

Benedictus from Sonata Britannica                      *Charles Villiers Stanford*  
(1852–1924)

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand for*

## THE PROCESSION

*All sit when the Lord Chancellor, and the Lord Chief Justice have taken their seats.*

*All stand as the clergy and choir move to places in Quire and the Sacrarium.*

*All remain standing. The choir sings*

## THE INTROIT

**I**N the hour of my distress,  
When temptations me oppress,  
And when I my sins confess,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When I lie within my bed,  
Sick in heart and sick in head,  
And with doubts discomfited,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,  
And the world is drowned with sleep,  
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

Litany to the Holy Spirit  
*Peter Hurford (1930–2019)*

*Robert Herrick (c 1591–1674)*

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

## THE BIDDING

**A**T the beginning of the legal year, we gather in the presence of almighty God, who is the judge of all and who knows the secrets of our hearts, to renew our commitment to the service of the Crown and to all manner of people that we may, together, do right.

We acknowledge a shared high calling, a common commitment to a justice that all can recognize, done without fear or favour, affection or ill will. So, we seek God's strength and guidance that we might remain true to our calling, informed, wise, and just.

We pray for the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, The Right Honourable Robert Buckland, for The Right Honourable The Lord Burnett, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales; and for all who make and administer the law, both in the United Kingdom and in the other legal jurisdictions represented here today.

In this holy place we ask God to sustain us in our life and work, to grant us humility and sound judgment, to forgive our errors, and to inspire our service. Through us and in us, may the words of the prophet find fulfilment and justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Now let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom on earth, saying, as Jesus 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 sit. The Right Honourable Robert Buckland QC MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, reads*

### THE FIRST READING

**T**HE Lord said to Moses: Thus you shall say to the Israelites: 'You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with the wicked to act as a malicious witness. You shall not follow a majority in wrongdoing; when you bear witness in a lawsuit, you shall not side with the majority so as to pervert justice; nor shall you be partial to the poor in a lawsuit. When you come upon your enemy's ox or donkey going astray, you shall bring it back. When you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden and you would hold back from setting it free, you must help to set it free. You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in their lawsuits. Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or those in the right, for I will not acquit the guilty. You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the officials, and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard. For six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your home-born slave and the resident alien may be refreshed. Be attentive to all that I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.'

Thanks be to God.

*Exodus 20: 22a; 23: 1-13*

*The choir sings*

THE PSALM

**O** SING unto the Lord a new song :  
for he hath done marvellous things.  
With his own right hand, and with his holy arm :  
hath he gotten himself the victory.  
The Lord declared his salvation :  
his righteousness hath he openly shewed  
in the sight of the heathen.  
He hath remembered his mercy and truth  
toward the house of Israel :  
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands :  
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.  
Praise the Lord upon the harp :  
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.  
With trumpets also and shawms :  
O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.  
Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is :  
the round world, and they that dwell therein.  
Let the floods clap their hands,  
and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord :  
for he is come to judge the earth.  
With righteousness shall he judge the world :  
and the people with equity.  
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.

*Psalm 98*

*The Right Honourable The Lord Burnett of Maldon, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, reads*

## THE SECOND READING

JESUS told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ' And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

Thanks be to God.

*Luke 18: 1-8*

## THE SERMON

*by*

The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle  
Dean of Westminster

*The choir sings*

TE DEUM LAUDAMAS

**W**E praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee : the Father everlasting.  
To thee all angels cry aloud : the heavens, and all the powers therein.  
To thee cherubin, and seraphin : continually do cry,  
Holy, holy, holy : Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heaven and earth are full of the majesty : of thy glory.  
The glorious company of the apostles : praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the prophets : praise thee.  
The noble army of martyrs : praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge thee;  
the Father : of an infinite majesty;  
thine honourable, true : and only Son;  
also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.  
Thou art the King of glory : O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man :  
    thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death :  
    thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God : in the Glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come : to be our Judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants :  
    whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy saints : in glory everlasting.  
O Lord, save thy people : and bless thine heritage.  
Govern them : and lift them up for ever.  
Day by day : we magnify thee;  
and we worship thy name : ever world without end.  
Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without sin.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon us.  
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us : as our trust is in thee.  
O Lord, in thee have I trusted : let me never be confounded.

*Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924) in B flat*

*The Reverend Mark Birch, Minor Canon and Precentor, leads*

## THE PRAYERS

Let us pray.

*All kneel or remain seated.*

**L**ET us pray for this United Kingdom, for its unity, peace, and concord; for Elizabeth our Queen, and for all members of the Royal Family; for both houses of Parliament, and all who bear responsibility in the ordering of our society; that justice, truth, and integrity may direct our common life.

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

*The Right Reverend Michael Doe, Preacher of Gray's Inn, says*

**L**ET us remember both the victims of crime and its perpetrators. Let us pray for those held prisoner, whether convicted or on remand, and for communities where there is anxiety and the fear of crime; praying for all that encourages social cohesion, resilience, and the development of virtue.

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

*The Venerable Sheila Watson, Preacher of Lincoln's Inn, says*

**L**ET us pray for all who administer justice in this realm; for all judges and the tribunals judiciary, magistrates, jurors, and ombudsmen; for clerks and court officials; for barristers, solicitors, chartered legal executives, and all whose profession or expertise is the law. Let us pray for the police, the armed forces, the probation and the prison services, and those who sustain order in our land; that our nation may live in peace and security.

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

*The Reverend Mark Hatcher, Reader of the Temple, says*

**L**ET us pray for our fellow nations in the Commonwealth and for all those across the world who make and administer law in nations and bodies governed by the Rule of Law. In a time of pandemic, let us pray for those nations that are most seriously affected, and for a spirit of international co-operation to control the virus and protect public health.

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

*The Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones, Master of the Temple, says*

**O** GOD, the just and merciful Judge of all mankind, look down from heaven, we beseech thee, on these thy servants, who are set by thy appointment to minister justice in this land. Grant unto them thy Holy Spirit, the Spirit of uprightness, the Spirit of discernment, and the Spirit of love, that they may boldly, discreetly, and mercifully fulfil their sacred duties, to the good of thy people and the glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Right Reverend Nicholas Hudson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, says*

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, whose word alone lights the paths of justice, send down upon our judges the healthful spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The choir sings*

#### THE MOTET

**T**HOU knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.

*Henry Purcell (1659–95)  
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1679–95*

*The Book of Common Prayer 1549*

*All stand. The Dean pronounces*

### THE BLESSING

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

*The choir alone sings*

### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

**G**OD save our gracious Queen,  
G long live our noble Queen,  
God save The Queen.

Send her victorious,  
happy and glorious,  
long to reign over us:  
God save The Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store  
on her be pleased to pour,  
long may she reign.  
May she defend our laws,  
and ever give us cause  
to sing with heart and voice:  
God save The Queen.

*All remain standing as the Procession leaves the Abbey church.*

*Music after the service*

Allegro from Variations *Edward Elgar (1857–1934)*  
on an Original Theme ‘Enigma’ *arranged by Peter Holder (b 1990)*

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