

# Westminster Abbey



## A Service

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

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021  
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*

*Komm, heiliger Geist,  
Herre Gott BWV 651*

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand for the Procession.*

*All sit when the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, the Heads of Divisions, and the Justices of the Supreme Court have taken their seats.*

*The remaining members of the procession enter, taking their seats upon reaching their places.*

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

*All remain standing. The choir sings the Introit*

Thou 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)*

*Book of Common Prayer 1549*

*Organist of Westminster Abbey 1679–95*

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

At 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 Right Honourable Dominic Raab, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, 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:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All stand to sing the Hymn*



Judge eternal, throned in splendour,  
Lord of lords and King of kings,  
with thy living fire of judgment  
purge this realm of bitter things:  
solace all its wide dominion  
with the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining  
for the hour that brings release:  
and the city's crowded clangour  
cries aloud for sin to cease;  
and the homesteads and the woodlands  
plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;  
cleave our darkness with thy sword;  
feed the faithless and the hungry  
with the richness of thy word:  
cleanse the body of this nation  
through the glory of the Lord.

*Rhuddlan 490 NEH from*

*Edward Jones' Musical Relicks of Welsh Bards 1800*

*Prayer for the Nation*

*Henry Holland (1847–1918)*

*All sit. The Right Honourable Dominic Raab MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor, and Secretary of State for Justice, reads Micah 6: 6–10*

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? The voice of the Lord cries to the city (it is sound wisdom to fear your name): Hear, O tribe and assembly of the city! Can I forget the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed?

Thanks be to God.

*The choir sings Psalm 8*

O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy name in all the world :  
thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!  
Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings  
hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies :  
that thou mightest still the enemy, and the avenger.  
For I will consider thy heavens, even the works of thy fingers :  
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.  
What is man, that thou art mindful of him :  
and the son of man, that thou visitest him?  
Thou madest him lower than the angels :  
to crown him with glory and worship.  
Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands :  
and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;  
all sheep and oxen :  
yea, and the beasts of the field;  
The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea :  
and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.  
O Lord our Governor :  
how excellent is thy name in all the world!

*Henry Lawes (1595–1662)*

*The Right Honourable The Lord Burnett of Maldon, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, reads* Philippians 2: 3–9

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

Thanks be to God.

*The choir sings the Anthem*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,  
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors :  
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory :

it is the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,  
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors :  
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory :

the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

*George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)*  
*from Messiah*

*Psalm 24: 7–10*

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

*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 579 AMR*

*Cecil Spring-Rice (1859–1918)*

*Gustav Holst (1874–1934)*

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

Let us pray.

*All kneel or sit.*

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

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

Let 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 maintain order in our land; that our nation may live in peace and security.

Lord, in thy mercy

**hear our prayer.**

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

Let us pray for our fellow jurisdictions in the United Kingdom, in the nations of the Commonwealth and the Council of Europe; and for all those who make and administer law in nations and bodies governed by the Rule of Law.

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

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

O God, the just and merciful Judge of all, 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.**

*All stand to sing the Hymn*



Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.

*Cwm Rhondda 368 NEH*  
*John Hughes (1873–1932)*

*Arglwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch*  
*William Williams (1717–91)*  
*translated by Peter Williams (1727–96) and others*

*All remain standing. The Dean pronounces the Blessing*

God 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.**

*All sing the National Anthem*

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

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

*Music after the service*

Voluntary in D

*William Boyce (1711–79)*

*The bells of the Abbey Church are rung*

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