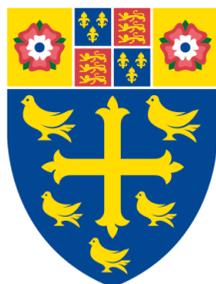


Westminster Abbey



The Royal British Legion Centenary Service



Tuesday 12th 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.

The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, directed by Corporal of Horse (Trumpet Major) Julian Sandford, and the fanfare team from the Band of the Grenadier Guards, participate by kind permission of Major General Chris Ghika CBE.

The Central Band of the Royal British Legion is directed by David Cole OBE MVO.

Music before the service:

Charles Maxtone-Smith, Organ Scholar, plays

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

Adagio espressivo from Sonata in A minor William Harris (1883–1973)

The band plays

Suite in E flat Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

- i Chaconne*
- ii Intermezzo*
- iii March*

Folk Song Suite Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

- i March: Seventeen Come Sunday*
- ii Intermezzo: My Bonny Boy*
- iii March: Folk Songs from Somerset*

Pomp and Circumstance March no 4 Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Deputy High Steward, Councillor Andrew Smith, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. All stand as he is conducted to his seat, and then sit.

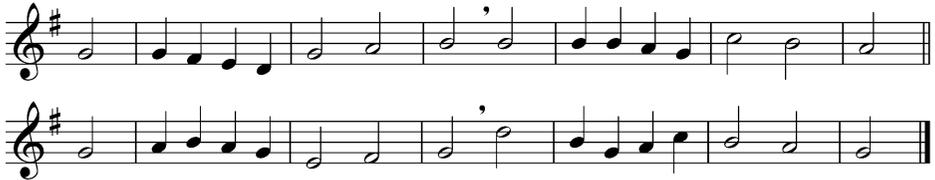
A fanfare is sounded. All stand.

Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal are received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at Poets' Corner.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain standing as the choir and clergy, together with Her Majesty The Queen, and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, move to places in Quire, Lantern, and the Sacrarium.

All sing the Hymn



All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him, and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

The choir sings O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

All sing For why? the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the angel-host
be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

*Old 100th 100 AMNS
melody in Genevan Psalter 1551*

arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

*Psalm 100
paraphrased W Kethe (d 1594)*

in Anglo-Genevan Psalter 1560

All sit. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, gives the Bidding

We gather in this Abbey church, witnesses to the One who came not to be served, but to serve. On this centenary of the Royal British Legion, we give thanks for the tireless, dedicated, and distinguished work of all those who have lived out the Legion's motto of 'Service not self'.

With them, we renew our commitment to the faithful remembrance of those who gave their lives for their country and those thousands of others who have served alongside them in Her Majesty's Armed Forces. We meet to pray a blessing on the work of the Legion in its care for serving personnel, veterans, and their dependents. We give thanks for the dedication, imagination, and resilience of those who find fresh ways of engaging with the many and varied needs of those who have suffered as a consequence of their commitment to Monarch and Nation. We pray that we will always have the wisdom and generosity of spirit to acknowledge and meet those needs.

On a day of proud remembrance, honouring the work of those who founded and have sustained the life of the Royal British Legion, we look to the future in confidence and hope, determined to build on what has been begun. May it always be said that that the Legion lived up to its calling and bore witness to its pledge of 'Service not self'.

In the words of Saint Paul:

'Let love be genuine; hate 'what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.'

Romans 12: 9–11

The Standard of the Royal British Legion is borne through the church, presented, and laid upon the High Altar, as the band plays

March: The British Legion

Thomas Bidgood (1858 – 1925)

The Dean says

Let us pray.

Remember, O Lord, what Thou hast wrought in us, and not what we deserve; and, as Thou hast called us to Thy service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Testimony is given by Naomi Hall from the Nave Pulpit

The choir sings the Motet

Present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Hold fast to what is good; be fervent in spirit; rejoice in hope; consider what is noble in the sight of all.

James O'Donnell (b 1961)

after Romans 12

From the Great Lectern, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal reads
Matthew 25: 31–40

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Thanks be to God.

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
Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Cecil Spring-Rice (1859–1918)

All sit. The Dean gives the Address

The choir sings the Anthem

God 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 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.

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. Amen.

John Rutter (b 1945)

Psalm 46: 1-3, 6-7, 9-end

The Reverend Mark Birch, Precentor, leads the Prayers

Let us pray.

All kneel or remain seated

Let us give thanks to God for the centenary of the Royal British Legion: for all the support offered to service men and women, to veterans, and to families; pray that they may always be there whenever help is needed.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

General Sir Nick Carter GCB CBE DSO ADC, Chief of the Defence Staff, says

Let us pray for the Armed Forces community: for the pressures they face whilst on active service, and when their service is over; for those who live with physical and psychological wounds and those who support them each day; that there may be greater understanding of their needs.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Colour Sergeant Johnson Beharry VC, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, says

Let us pray for the work of advocacy: for every effort to give voice to service and ex-service personnel and their families; for those who speak up for Her Majesty's Armed Forces in Parliament, and in the corridors of power; that their service may be acknowledged and their voice heard.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Megan Adams says

Let us pray for the work of Royal British Legion branches around the country, and for their membership; that they may be places of friendship and community, serving one another's needs.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Sara Jones CBE DL says

Let us pray that we may all fulfil our duty to remember; to remember those who have died in active service, and those who have sacrificed health of mind and body in protecting this nation; that our remembrance may do them honour.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The Reverend David Stanton, Canon in Residence, says

Let us pray for the ongoing work of the Royal British Legion; for the people who contribute in caring, campaigning, and remembrance; and for the next generation of service personnel, that they may have the hope of support and a better future, whatever might be asked of them.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The Precentor says

Let us pray as our Saviour 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



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)
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)

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

All remain standing for the Act of Rededication. Lieutenant General James Bashall CB CBE, National President of the Royal British Legion, says

On this day, let us reflect upon the commission given to the Royal British Legion by its founders, and rededicate ourselves to its purposes as set forth in our Original Charter of 1925. Granted by His Majesty King George V, it remains in Royal Charters to this day.

Let us, in the words of our Charter:

Maintain a strong, positive, non-sectarian, united, and democratic comradeship of all those who serve or who have served in our Armed Forces. Let neither their efforts nor their interests be forgotten, and may we secure just and equitable treatment in respect of difficulties caused in their lives as a result of their service.

Let us consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by devotion to mutual service and helpfulness. May we perpetuate, in the civil life of the Commonwealth and the world, the principles for which this nation stands.

Let us inculcate a sense of loyalty to the Crown, Community, and Nation. May we promote unity amongst all classes, to secure peace and goodwill, and to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

These purposes have guided our charity and organisation for 100 years. They have endured the test of time. As we remain true to them, may they sustain us for a century to come.

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.

Long live our noble Queen.

God save The Queen.

Send her victorious,

happy and glorious,

long to reign over us:

God save The Queen.

arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895–1984)

*The clergy, together with Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness
The Princess Royal, move to Poets' Corner and depart.*

Music after the service

The band plays

March: Fame and Glory

Albert Matt (1864–1941)

March: Legion 100

arranged by David Cole (b 1948)

The bells of the Abbey are rung

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