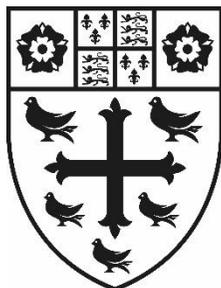
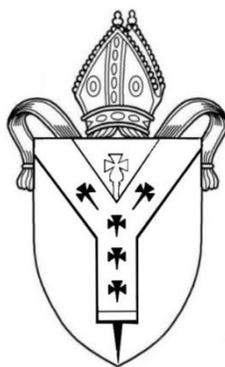
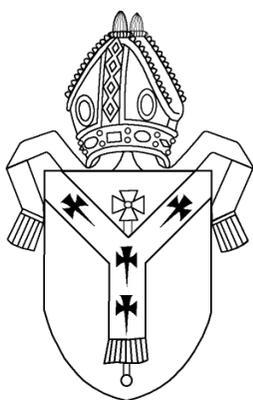


Westminster Abbey



A Service of Holy Communion at the Inauguration of the Eleventh General Synod of the Church of England



Tuesday 16th November 2021
10.45 am

HISTORICAL NOTE

The General Synod was created in 1970. It comprises around 470 voting members, of whom just over 50 (including the Archbishops and other diocesan bishops) are members by virtue of their office and around 420 who are elected for a five-year term of office.

The origins of the Synod can be traced back to the Middle Ages. Since before the Reformation the Provinces of Canterbury and York have each had a provincial synod called a Convocation, consisting of an Upper House of bishops and a Lower House of clergy. Advisory Houses of Laymen were added in 1886 (Canterbury) and 1892 (York). In 1919 Parliament conferred legislative authority on a new body, the Church Assembly, which met for the first time the following year. It consisted of the Convocations and a House of Laity and had the power to pass Measures which, if approved by Parliament, received the Royal Assent and became part of the statute law of England. The right to make canon law remained with the Convocations.

In 1970 the General Synod acquired the powers of the Church Assembly and most of those of the Convocations. It too consists of the Convocations and a House of Laity. In 1974 Parliament approved legislation giving the General Synod power to approve liturgies for use alongside those in The Book of Common Prayer and also to decide on the form in which the clergy should declare their assent to the doctrine of the Church of England.

Every five years the newly constituted Convocations and the House of Laity are summoned to an inaugural service of Holy Communion in Westminster Abbey. Afterwards they meet in the Assembly Hall in Church House.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are joint presidents of Synod and as such lead the service assisted by representatives of the three houses.

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

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, and before the service by Charles Maxtone-Smith, Organ Scholar.

Music before the service

Komm, heiliger Geist BWV 651 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Prelude and Fugue in G Op 37 no 2 Felix Mendelssohn (1809–47)

Fantaisie in A (Trois pieces) César Franck (1822–90)

*Choral varié sur le thème du Veni Creator Op 4iii
Maurice Duruflé (1902–86)*

The Procession of the Officers of the General Synod moves through the Nave to places in the north-east Lantern. All remain seated.

The Procession of the Representatives of other Churches and of ecumenical bodies moves through the Nave to places in the north-west Lantern. All remain seated.

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater London is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and joins the presentation line. All remain seated.

All stand. His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Gathering

All remain standing as the procession moves to the east end of the Church

All sing the Hymn



Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till they become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Down Ampney 137 NEH
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Discendi amor santo
Bianco da Siena (c 1350–1434)
translated by Richard Littledale (1833–90)

All remain standing. The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, says the Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Peace be with you
and also with you.

All remain standing for the Prayers of Penitence

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, and word, and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The Archbishop of Canterbury gives the Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit after the opening phrase Glory be to God on high sung by the choir

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Coronation Gloria

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

The Archbishop of Canterbury introduces the Collect

Let us pray.

All stand

Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church to lead us into all truth: bless with the Spirit's grace and presence the members of this Synod; keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest your glory and prepare the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

All sit. Adam Kendry RN, House of Laity, reads Revelation 3: 1–6, 14–end

The one like the Son of Man said to me, ‘To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:

‘I know your works; you have a name for being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is at the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. Yet you have still a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

‘And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God’s creation:

‘I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.” You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline

those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand. The procession moves to the Nave and the Gospel Acclamation is sung

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All sing



The choir sings

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

All sing

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*The Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford,
announces the Gospel Luke 19: 1–10*

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*The Sermon by His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos
Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London*

All stand to say the Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

All remain standing. The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, Primate of England and Metropolitan, introduces the Prayers of Intercession

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

Emily Hill, Hereford Diocese laity, says

Heavenly Father, we pray for your Church throughout the world; for Justin and Stephen our Archbishops, and for all the members and staff of this Synod. Grant us wisdom and discernment. Help us to pray, to bear with one another in love, and to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Joshua Askwith, House of Clergy, Chester Diocese, says

We pray for justice and peace throughout the world, and for the good stewardship of creation. Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen, give wisdom to all in authority under her, and help us all to work for the common good.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Temitope Taiwo, London Diocese laity, says

We pray for the mission of the Church; for the work of evangelism, and for each one of us in our witness to Christ; that we may be inspired to proclaim the faith afresh to each generation.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Zoe Heming, House of Clergy, Lichfield Diocese, says

Hear our prayer for those who suffer injustice or prejudice in the world and in the Church; for contrition where suffering has been caused and not addressed, and reconciliation where there is disagreement; that, by the Spirit, we may be guided into all truth.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Addy Lazz-Onyenobi, Manchester Diocese laity, says

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, especially former members and staff of this Synod, and all who have inspired us in our Christian vocation.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Leslie Siu, House of Clergy, Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese, says

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Peter, St Edward the Confessor, and all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The Archbishop of York concludes

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan, and upon the disciples in the upper room: in your mercy fill us with your Spirit, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All remain standing for the Peace. The Archbishop of Canterbury says

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

*All may greet one another with the words **Peace be with you.** Please be sensitive to those who might not wish to shake hands*

All sing the Hymn



Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia, Bread of Angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

All remain standing. The Archbishop of Canterbury says

To you we come, Father of lights, with angels and saints, where heaven and earth unite. May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always sing of your glory, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore, with all who can give voice in your creation, we glorify your name, for ever praising you and saying,

The choir sings Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Charles Villiers Stanford in G

The Archbishop of Canterbury says

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice or praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The president introduces the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray, with confidence, in the words 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 remain standing for the Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Holy Communion is offered in one kind (bread only). Gluten-free wafers are available. The wearing of face-coverings is optional and hand-sanitiser is available for those who wish to use it. Please receive the bread into the palm of your hand

The minister says to each communicant

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

During the giving of communion, the choir sings Agnus Dei and the Motet

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world; grant us thy peace.

Charles Villiers Stanford in B flat

Ave verum Corpus natum de Maria Virgine
Vere passum immolatum in cruce pro homine.
Cujus latus perforatum unda fluxit et sanguine.
Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
who truly suffered upon the cross for mankind:
from whose pierced side there came forth water and blood;
give us now, and at the time of our death, yourself to be our food.*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–91)

attributed to Innocent VI (c 1282–1362)

All sing the Hymn



Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.

No work too hard for him,
in faith receive from him;

be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Be still 383 CP
David Evans (b 1957)

David Evans

All stand. The Archbishop of Canterbury says the Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

All sing the Hymn



Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth, and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Lord of the years 81 CP
Michael Baughen (b 1930)

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b 1926)

The Dismissal

All remain standing. The Archbishop of Canterbury says

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Our help in is the name of the Lord,
who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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.

Music after the service

Te Deum Op 11

Jeanne Demessieux (1921–68)

All remain standing as the procession moves to the west end of the Abbey

**Members of the General Synod and members of the
congregation are requested to remain in their places until
invited to move by the Honorary Stewards**

The bells of the Abbey are rung