

Westminster Abbey



A Service

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

Monday 3rd October 2022

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 MBE, 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

SINCE by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

*George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
from Messiah HWV 56*

1 Corinthians 15: 21–22

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 Brandon Lewis, 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 sit. The Right Honourable Brandon Lewis CBE MP, Lord Chancellor, and Secretary of State for Justice, reads the First Reading

FOR everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

Ecclesiastes 3:1–8, 14–15

Thanks be to God.

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)
translated by Peter Williams (1727–96) and others)

Arglwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch
William Williams (1717–91)

All sit. The Right Honourable The Lord Burnett of Maldon, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, reads the Second Reading

JESUS CHRIST is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1: 15–20

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the Anthem

WE 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 Cherubim and Seraphim: 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.

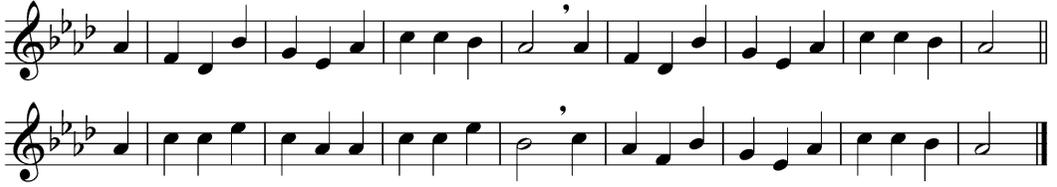
Te Deum in C

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

Book of Common Prayer 1549

*The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester and Anglican
Bishop to His Majesty's Prisons, gives the Address*

All stand to sing the Hymn



IMMORTAL, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest—to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish—but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

St Denio 377 NEH
from John Roberts's Caniadau y Cyssegr 1839

Walter Smith (1824–1908)

The Reverend Mark Birch, Precentor, leads the Prayers

Let us pray.

All kneel or sit.

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

LET us pray for this United Kingdom, for its unity, peace, and concord; for Charles our King, 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 Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones, Master of the Temple, 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 Right Reverend Michael Doe, Preacher of Gray'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

AND did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

Jerusalem 488 NEH
Hubert Parry (1848–1918)

William Blake (1757–1827)

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces the Blessing

GOD grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The King, 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 King,
Glong live our noble King,
God save The King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The King.

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

All remain standing as the Procession leaves the church.

Music after the service

Overture
to An Occasional Oratorio HWV 62

George Frideric Handel
arranged by
William Thomas Best (1826–97)

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**