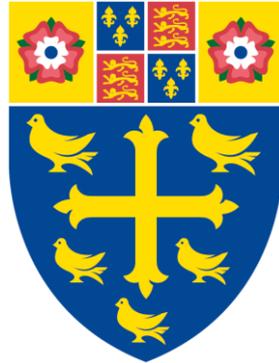


Westminster Abbey



The Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration



ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

Monday 13th March 2023
2.45 pm

The whole of the church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

The service will be broadcast live on BBC One.

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 service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers. The organ is played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.

The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry are directed by Trumpet Major Julian Sandford, and the Fanfare Team from the Band of the Irish Guards is directed by Captain Peter Brydon, Director of Music and Officer Commanding.

Before the service Ngāti Rānana perform outside the Great West Door.

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays

Prelude and Fugue in A BWV 536 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Prelude on ‘Cape Town’ Healey Willan (1880–1968)

Rhosymedre Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

The Royal Academy of Music Junior Ensemble, directed by John Hutchins, Principal of the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department, plays

Movement 2 from Sea Shanties Malcolm Arnold (1921–2006)

*Waltzing Matilda Banjo Paterson (1864–1941)
arranged by Edward Tait (b 2006)*

*Jamaican Rumba Arthur Benjamin (1893–1960)
arranged by Laila Arafah (b 2004)*

*Mandela - Bring him back home Hugh Masekela (1939–2018)
arranged by Paul Moylan (b 1967)*

*Ari we Ari traditional Indian
arranged by Tom Kirby (b 2005)*

Gyatabruwa	Osei Boateng (b 1962) <i>arranged by Maddy Chassar-Hesketh (b 2005)</i>
Click Song	Miriam Makeba (1932–2008) <i>arranged by Andrew Hewitt (b 2004)</i>
The British Isles!	Chloe Harrison (b 2005)
Popular Song <i>from</i> Façade	William Walton (1902–83)
Wind Quintet	Felix Ho (b 2005)
Blues <i>from</i> Comedy for Winds	Paul Patterson (b 1947)
<i>The Assistant Organist plays</i>	
Psalm-Prelude Set 1 no 2	Herbert Howells (1892–1983)
<i>The Sub-Organist plays</i>	
The Tree of Peace	Judith Weir (b 1954)

THE PROCESSION OF HONOURED GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS

THE FOUR LOYAL SOCIETIES

Honorary Steward

Prince Rahim Aga Khan
Vice President-designate
Royal Commonwealth Society

Brigadier Anthony Faith CBE
Chairman
The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship

Ms Helen Prince
Chairman
Royal Over-Seas League

Mr Philip Maunder
Interim Chair
English-Speaking Union

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FAITH COMMUNITIES

Verger

Representing the Jain Community
Mr Vinay Shah

Representing the Baha'i Community
Mr Olinga Tahzib

*Representing the Zoroastrian
Community*
Mr Malcolm Deboo

*Representing Jewish Reform
Synagogues*
Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers

*Representing the Sunni Muslim
Community*
Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra

Representing the Hindu Community
Mrs Trupti Patel

Representing Orthodox Judaism
Rabbi Dr Samuel Landau

Representing the Buddhist Community
The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala

Representing the Sikh Community
Lord Singh of Wimbledon CBE

Representing Liberal Judaism
Rabbi Charley Baginsky

*Representing the Shi'a Muslim
Community*
Maulana Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCHES

Verger

The Church of Scotland
The Reverend William McLaren

The Methodist Church
The Reverend Tony Miles

The Roman Catholic Church
Fr Sławomir Witoń

The Pentecostal Church
Ms Shermara Fletcher

The Syriac Orthodox Church
His Eminence Archbishop
Athanasius Thoma Dawod

The Armenian Orthodox Church
His Grace Bishop Hovakim

The Greek Orthodox Church
His Eminence
Archbishop Nikitas

The Coptic Orthodox Church
His Eminence
Archbishop Angaelos

The Prime Minister of Samoa, Afioga Fiame Naomi Mataafa, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made and she is conducted to her seat.

Minister Biruta, Representative of the Commonwealth Chair-in-Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rwanda, is received.

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Hamza Taouzzale, arrives and is conducted to his seat.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence KCVO CB DC are received. Presentations are made.

Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex are received. Presentations are made.

All stand.

Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales are received. Presentations are made.

Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort are received at the West Gates by the Dean of Westminster.

Their Majesties receive a traditional Māori greeting from Ngāti Rānana.

A fanfare is sounded.

THE PROCESSION

Beadle

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

The King's Almsmen

The Cross of Westminster and Lights

The Minor Canons

The Receiver General

The High Bailiff The High Steward

Canons' Verger

The Canons of Westminster

Honorary Steward

The Commonwealth of Nations Flag of Peace

The Chief Honorary Steward

The Executive Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations

Representative of the Commonwealth Chair-in-Office

The Dean's Verger

The Dean of Westminster

Mace

Her Majesty

The Queen Consort

His Majesty

THE KING

Her Royal Highness

The Princess of Wales

His Royal Highness

The Prince of Wales

Her Royal Highness

The Countess of Wessex

His Royal Highness

The Earl of Wessex

Vice Admiral

Sir Tim Laurence

Her Royal Highness

The Princess Royal

ORDER OF SERVICE

All sing

GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save The King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The King.

arranged by Gordon Jacobs (1895–1984)

All sing the Hymn, during which the Procession and flags of all the Commonwealth nations move through the Abbey to places in Quire, Lantern, and Sacrarium



LIGHT'S abode, celestial Salem,
vision dear whence peace doth spring,
brighter than the heart can fancy,
mansion of the highest King;
O, how glorious are the praises
which of thee the prophets sing!

There for ever and for ever
Praise and blessing is outpoured;
for unending, for unbroken
is the feast-day of the Lord;
all is pure and all is holy
that within thy walls is stored.

There no cloud nor passing vapour
dims the brightness of the air;
endless noon-day, glorious noon-day,
from the Sun of suns is there;
there no night brings rest from labour,
there unknown are toil and care.

O how glorious and resplendent,
fragile body, shalt thou be,
when endued with so much beauty,
full of health, and strong, and free,
full of vigour, full of pleasure
that shall last eternally!

Now with gladness, now with courage,
bear the burden on thee laid,
that hereafter these thy labours
may with endless gifts be paid,
and in everlasting glory
thou with joy may'st be arrayed.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal
while unending ages run. Amen.

*Regent Square 401 NEH
Henry Smart (1818–79)
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)*

*Jerusalem luminosa 15th century
translated by John Mason Neale (1818–66)*

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

WE gather, in this house of prayer and place of coronation in the year of Coronation, to acknowledge our common life as God's people and to celebrate as a Commonwealth of Nations. We mark the tenth anniversary of the Commonwealth Charter, signed by Her Late Majesty The Queen. We rejoice in the eager desire expressed there to build and sustain shared values and to have concern for the vulnerable.

In our service today, we will thank God for the work and witness of the youth of the Commonwealth, and we will pray for peace. We will pray too for our King as we look to the day when we will gather here again in loyalty and affection. As people of faith, hope, and compassion we shall pray for the peoples of Turkey, Syria, and Ukraine, and all for whom the last year has brought great suffering and loss.

Here we rejoice in our common life. Confident in God's grace we will gather the richness and range of our lives into the shared offering of a common people with one hope under God.

The choir sings the Anthem

OBE joyful in the Lord, all ye lands :
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God :
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise :
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting :
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, and is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Benjamin Britten (1913–76) in C

Psalm 100

Roshani Abbey and Nuwan Hugh Perera perform Anagathaye

Brianna Fruean gives a Reflection

The Amalgamation Choir sings Exile of Eros

Minister Biruta, Representative of the Commonwealth Chair-in-Office, reads

A SHOOT shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11: 1–9

Thanks to be God.

All stand to sing the Hymn



KING of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
and that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol thee.

Gwalchmai 391 NEH
Joseph David Jones (1827–70)

Praise (II) in The Temple
George Herbert (1593–1633)

His Majesty The King delivers his Commonwealth Day Message

The choir sings the Anthem

THOU wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stay'd on thee:
because he trusteth in thee.

Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

from Thou, O God, art praised in Sion
Malcolm Boyle (1902–76)

Isaiah 26: 3–4

The Reverend Robert Latham, Minor Canon and Sacrist, introduces the prayers

Let us pray for the Commonwealth of Nations, and give thanks to God for his blessings.

All remain seated or kneel.

HEAVENLY Father, hear our prayers for every nation represented among us; for their leaders and peoples; that we might celebrate our diversity, and live together in unity, fellowship and peace.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Fr Sławomir Witoń, Administrator, Westminster Cathedral, says

HEAR our prayers for the world we share, for those suffering as a consequence of warfare; those stricken by natural disaster; for the peoples of Ukraine, Pakistan, Turkey, and Syria; for all working for the relief of suffering and the promotion of peace and justice.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Reverend Tony Miles, Superintendent Minister, Methodist Central Hall Westminster, says

HEAR our prayers for the young people of our Commonwealth; that the foundation of friendship and shared values they inherit will support and inspire the flourishing of generations to come. That duty and creativity in service of the common good within the fellowship of nations will keep us in the paths of prosperity and peace.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Right Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon in Residence, says

HEAR our prayers for His Majesty The King, the Head of the Commonwealth, in his Coronation year; that our bonds of affection may remain strong, and our commitment to service be lifelong and steadfast.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Let us pray in the words that 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 Urukerereza, National Ballet of Rwanda, performs Uzaze Urebe

All stand for The Act of Affirmation. The Right Honourable Baroness Scotland of Asthal KC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations, says

ON this tenth anniversary of the signing of our Commonwealth Charter, let us now stand to pledge ourselves afresh to uphold and serve the values and fellowship of the Commonwealth.

We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity.

We affirm our desire for peace among all peoples and nations, and our belief in justice for everyone, everywhere.

We affirm our respect for the natural world, and that we will be stewards of the earth by caring for every part of it, and working together for a sustainable future.

We affirm our support for all young people, in every part of our Commonwealth, and our belief that the future success of the Commonwealth rests with them.

Joining together in kinship and affinity, in diversity and unity, as members of a worldwide family of nations, we build on shared inheritances.

We cooperate with mutual respect and goodwill to deliver our common goals, for the common good.

Through our Commonwealth connection we see each other, hear each other, learn from one another, and innovate to transform our communities and our nations, towards a more peaceful and sustainable common future for all.

All respond

We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a powerful influence for good in the world, and pledge ourselves to its service, now and for the future.

All sit. YolanDa Brown performs Is this love

All stand to sing the Hymn during which the flags of the Commonwealth nations leave the Abbey



CROWN him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.

Crown him the Lord of love!
Behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
Glassed in a sea of light,
where everlasting waves
reflect his throne—the Infinite!
who lives—and loves—and saves.

Diademata 352 NEH
George Elvey (1816–93)
arranged by James O'Donnell

Matthew Bridges (1800–94)

All remain standing. The Dean introduces the Blessings

With friends representing the many communities of faith, let us now seek a blessing upon the Commonwealth, in all its diversity.

Faith leaders Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, Lord Singh of Wimbledon, Rabbi Charley Baginsky, and the Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala offer words of blessing for the Commonwealth.

The Dean pronounces the final 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 Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing as the clergy and choir, Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort, and Members of the Royal Family depart the Abbey church.

Music after the service

Chorale Fantasia on 'The Old Hundreth'

Hubert Parry (1848–1918)

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

There will be a retiring collection for the Disasters Emergency Committee



**DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE**

In August 2022, Pakistan was hit by devastating floods, submerging huge swathes of the country. More than 1,700 people were killed and two million homes damaged or destroyed. Millions of people have been left in need of food, clean water, shelter and healthcare. The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) brings together 15 leading UK aid charities at times of crisis overseas. Its Pakistan Floods Appeal has been helping people affected by the crisis, providing immediate relief and rebuilding lives and livelihoods. The retiring collection for this service will be donated to the appeal.

