

# Westminster Abbey



A WREATH LAYING TO  
COMMEMORATE THE WORK OF  
WILLIAM WILBERFORCE AND  
MARK THE UNITED KINGDOM'S  
COMMITMENT TO COMBAT  
MODERN SLAVERY



Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
6.00 pm



## HISTORICAL NOTE

Slavery spans history. From ancient times to modernity, the enslavement of people has been present as a form of trade in human life and labour. The fifteenth century saw the beginning of a global trading system with slaves shipped across the seas. New trade routes were developed from Europe to Africa, and by the middle of the seventeenth century, the transatlantic slave trade was in full operation.

The trade saw wealthy European countries depend upon supplies of enslaved people; British-made goods were transported to Africa in return for slaves, who were shipped to the West Indies and sold for sugar, tobacco, and cotton. Although people were aware of the harshness and brutality of the slave trade, complaints about its operations were uncommon before the mid-eighteenth century. In 1787, William Wilberforce, a member of parliament passionate about social reform, became a member of the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and led the parliamentary campaign to see slavery abolished.

Wilberforce faced a huge task against heavy opposition. Nonetheless he led the way and, in 1807, the Slave Trade Act was passed. This abolished the slave trade in all of the British Empire, making it illegal for British ships to transport slaves and for British colonies to import them. However, although the slave trade was abolished, slavery went on; abolitionists thus strived for complete freedom of slaves. In 1833, just days before Wilberforce's death, the Slavery Abolition Act was passed.

Just as the trade boomed in Wilberforce's time, so it still does in the twenty-first century, with new international trade routes and greater ease of travel, modern slavery is thriving in our globalised economy.

Victims may not be in chains, but are shackled by fear and ignorance, threatened and manipulated, hidden away and too frightened to seek help. As the world evolves towards a global community, with increased mobility, wider transportation networks, and faster and more powerful technology, the transfer and movement of people, both voluntary and coerced, is becoming more prevalent.

The role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner has never been so crucial. With thousands of slaves in the UK right now, and millions around the world, the Commissioner's timely appointment allows for one individual to spearhead the UK's response to the crime and continue the work of Wilberforce. The Commissioner is dedicated to learn from those who have gone before as he leads this century's fight. Today's service reminds us that, just as Wilberforce tirelessly committed himself to the eradication of slavery, we too must give our all to combat this grave injustice.

*Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, 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 John Hall, Dean of Westminster.*

*The organ is played by Benjamin Cunningham, Organ Scholar.*

*Music before the service:*

Psalm Prelude Set 1 no 1 *Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

Adagio in E *from* Three Pieces *Frank Bridge (1879–1941)*

Choral Prelude *on* Rockingham *Hubert Parry (1848–1918)*

Aria *from* Six Short Pieces *Herbert Howells*

*The Right Honourable Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for the Home Office, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made, and she is conducted to her seat.*

*The Right Honourable The Lord Fowler, Lord Speaker, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made, and he is conducted to his seat.*

*The Right Honourable Theresa May MP, Prime Minister, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made, and she is conducted to her seat.*

*The Lord Mayor of Westminster, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, is received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made, and they are conducted to their seats. All stand, and then sit.*

*All stand.*

*Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York is received at the Great West Gate by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made.*

*Hymns covered by Christian Copyright Licensing (International) Ltd are reproduced under CCL no 1040271.*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*All remain standing as the clergy, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York, move to the North Transept.*

*The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, says*

### THE BIDDING

ALMOST nine years ago, we held a service here to mark the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. At the end of that service Her Majesty The Queen laid flowers, first at the statue of William Wilberforce to honour all who worked for the abolition of the slave trade, and later at the Innocent Victims Memorial outside the Abbey's west front, to honour those who suffered and those who still suffer from slavery.

We mark a new stage in the fight against modern slavery as we recognise the first United Kingdom Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. As Her Royal Highness lays a wreath at the grave of William Wilberforce, we shall honour all who have fought against slavery. And as we renew the commitment of Her Majesty's Government and of the Churches to the effective abolition of slavery in our own day, we shall invoke the blessing of almighty God.

*All sit. Al Bangura, professional footballer, survivor of modern slavery, and Sport for Freedom Ambassador, reads*

### GALATIANS 3: 23–29

NOW before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

*All remain seated for*

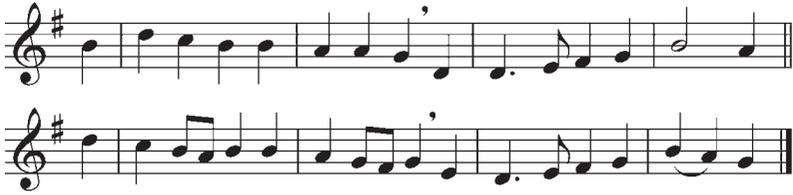
### THE ADDRESSES

His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
*Archbishop of Westminster*

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

*All stand to sing*

THE HYMN



**T**HE King of love my Shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction, grace bestoweth:  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never;  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

*Dominus Regit me 457ii NEH*  
*John Dykes (1823–76)*

*Psalm 23*  
*versified by Henry Baker (1821–77)*

*All sit for*

THE ADDRESSES

The Right Honourable Theresa May MP  
*Prime Minister*

Kevin Hyland OBE  
*Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner*

*All stand to sing*

THE HYMN

*during which the Dean, accompanied by Her Royal Highness  
Princess Eugenie of York, moves to the grave of William Wilberforce*



**A**MAZING grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come.  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.

When we've been there a thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.

Amazing grace 27 HON  
*American folk-hymn*

*after John Newton (1725–1807)  
verse 5, John Rees (1828–1900)*

*All remain standing. Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York, together with Marlene Sookdeo, survivor of modern slavery, lays a wreath at the grave of William Wilberforce.*

*All sit or kneel. The Reverend Paul Arbuthnot, Minor Canon and Sacrist of Westminster, leads*

## THE PRAYERS

Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY God, who didst send thine only Son Jesus Christ to free thy children from the slavery of sin: grant that, as thy servant William Wilberforce toiled against the sin of slavery, so we, inspired by his example, might work for the freedom and prosperity of all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon in Residence, says:*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast created us in thine own image: grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice, to the glory of thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Right Honourable The Lord Fowler Kt PC, Lord Speaker, says:*

**O** GOD, who hast made of one blood all nations to dwell upon the face of the earth, and who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast broken down the wall of partition between all races: break down, we beseech thee, all that divides us from one another; shame our jealousies and lay low our pride; do away all prejudice, that the bonds of fellowship and mutual service may unite all peoples, and that we may live together in peace, to the glory of thy great name; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Sacrist concludes:*

All these, our prayers and praises, let us present before our heavenly Father, in the words our Saviour Christ hath taught us:

**O**UR 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



**G**UIDE 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

**U**NTO God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*All remain standing as the Clergy, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie of York, move to the Great West Door.*

*Music after the service:*

*Allegro from Symphonie II*

*Louis Vierne (1870–1937)*



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