



SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
on the occasion of
the Fiftieth Anniversary
of the Marriage of
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
and
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Westminster Abbey

Thursday 20 November 1997

11 am

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

Before the service the bells of the Abbey church are rung.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, with London Brass.

The organ is played by Martin Baker, Sub-Organist of Westminster Abbey.

The fanfares are played by the State and Fanfare Trumpeters of the Life Guards, directed by Major Malcolm Torrent.

The music is directed by Martin Neary, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

Before the service Stephen Le Prevost, Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey, plays:

Trumpet Tune

*Henry Purcell (1659–95),
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1679–95*

Jesu joy of man's desiring
arranged from the church cantata
Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben, BWV147

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Organ concerto in B flat, op.4, no.6

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Bist du bei mir, BWV508

spuriously attributed to Johann Sebastian Bach

Martin Baker plays:

Fugue 'à la gigue', BWV577

attributed to Johann Sebastian Bach

Sonata for organ, op.28:

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Allegro maestoso, Allegretto, Andante espressivo, Presto (comodo)

Bridal March, from *The Birds*

Hubert Parry (1848–1918)

A detachment of The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard, and of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, enter the Abbey and move to their positions. All remain seated.

A Procession of Visiting Clergy and other Religious Representatives moves to places in the Quire. All remain seated.

Dr Zaki Bedawi
*Director,
Muslim College*

The Reverend Malcolm Weisman, OBE
*representing the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain
and the Commonwealth*

The Reverend Dr Kathleen Richardson
Moderator, Free Church Federal Council

His Eminence George Basil Cardinal Hume, OSB
Archbishop of Westminster

The Right Reverend Alexander McDonald
*Moderator, General Assembly,
Church of Scotland*

The Very Reverend Patrick Mitchell
Dean of Windsor

The Reverend William Booth
Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable
Richard Chartres
Dean of the Chapels Royal

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable
Dr David Hope, KCVO
*Lord Archbishop of York,
Primate of England and Metropolitan*

The Procession of the Archbishop of Canterbury moves to the Sacrarium. All remain seated.

Members of the Royal Family are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and are conducted to their places in the Lantern and Sacrarium. All stand.

Members of the Collegiate Body move into place in the Nave, and face the Great West Door.

ORDER OF SERVICE

A fanfare is sounded. All face the Great West Door.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

The Very Reverend Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster, says

THE GREETING

YOUR Majesty, Your Royal Highness, we have gathered both here in your Collegiate Church of St Peter, Westminster, and in our homes, to thank God for your fifty years of married life, and to pray for all who celebrate their anniversary with you.

All We greet you in the name of the Lord.
In the name of the Lord, we greet you.

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN

*during which the Procession of the Collegiate Body,
together with Her Majesty and His Royal Highness,
moves to places in the Quire and Sacrarium*

PRAISE, my soul, the King of Heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Praise my soul 470 EH
John Goss (1800–80)
descant by Albert C Tysoe (1884–1962)*

H F Lyte (1793–1847)

All sit. Peter Phillips reads

EPHESIANS 3: 14-19

FOR this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

THE Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Crimond
melody by Jessie S Irvine (1836-87)
descant by W Baird Ross

Psalm 23
in Scottish Psalter (1650)

All sit for

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Cardinal Hume says:

Let us pray.

HEAVENLY Father, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage, that in it is represented a holy mystery. We ask your blessing on all married people throughout our land, especially those who this year celebrate their fiftieth anniversary. May these unions witness throughout the world to faith, hope and love: faith in being able to trust ourselves to one another, hope in seeking the coming of your kingdom, and love to bind all creation together in unity with you, both now and in all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Dr Richardson says:

ALMIGHTY God, from whom all family life derives. We pray for homes and families throughout the world. Be their support, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, that their lives may be marked by understanding and forbearance, courtesy and kindness. Amid our joy at this celebration we commend to your mercy those for whom this thanksgiving occasions sorrow, especially those who are widowed, separated or divorced. We particularly remember with gratitude the life of Diana, Princess of Wales. Grant us your sustaining comfort, that we may know the reconciling and strengthening power of your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Right Reverend Alexander McDonald says:

ALMIGHTY God, we commend to your loving care the children and grandchildren of Elizabeth our Queen, and Philip Duke of Edinburgh. We pray for Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward; for William and Harry; Peter and Zara; Beatrice and Eugenie. Grant that the members of this family, of whom we ask so much, may receive wisdom to know and strength to perform your will for them in whatever you may call them to do; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Cardinal Hume continues:

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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. The Choir sings

PSALM 100

O BE 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, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Benjamin Britten (1913-76)

composed for St George's Chapel, Windsor,

at the request of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

All remain standing for

THE PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

The Reverend Barry Fenton, Precentor of Westminster Abbey, says:

Let us pray.

ETERNAL God, we offer our thanks that through our earthly lives you speak of your eternal life. We rejoice in the wonder of creation, the gift of human life and the many blessings that our relationships bring. Especially this day we give thanks for Elizabeth our Queen, for Philip Duke of Edinburgh, and for all who with them celebrate fifty years of marriage. Renew in them the fruits of your Holy Spirit; that love, joy and peace may abound in the homes of our nation and the Commonwealth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Reverend Jonathan Goodall, Chaplain and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey, says:

WE praise you, heavenly Father, that you have made us in your own likeness, and have ordained marriage as a sacred mystery. Through it we glimpse your nature and your purposes for the world. We praise you for every testimony to your presence among us: to the love that sustains life, to the forgiveness that heals injury, to the unity that overcomes division, and to the joy that eternally triumphs over sorrow. Father of all mercies, source of all being and giver of every good gift, in humility and adoration we offer you our gratitude and worship; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

All sit or kneel. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness kneel.

The Choir sings:

MAY the grace of Christ our Saviour,
and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favour,
rest upon them from above.

Thus may they abide in union
with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion,
joys which earth cannot afford.

*Tune: Studland
Martin Neary (b 1940), composed for this service*

*John Newton (1752-1807), adapted
2 Corinthians 13: 14*

*during which the Archbishop of Canterbury,
standing before Her Majesty and His Royal Highness,
privately says*

A BLESSING

MAY God, who has given you fifty years together, of his infinite goodness
and mercy continue to bless you and your union.

May the Father who created you, the Son who redeems you, and the Holy Spirit
who sanctifies you, preserve and keep you all your days.

The Lord with his favour look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction
and grace; that you may so please him in this life, that in the world to come you
may have life everlasting. Amen.

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

*during which representatives of other couples celebrating
fifty years of marriage process to the Lantern*

O CLAP your hands, all ye people: shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible: he is a great King over all the earth.

God is gone up with a shout: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God: sing praises unto our King.

For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises every one that hath
understanding.

God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

Sing praises unto our King. Sing praises.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Psalms 47: 1-2, 5-8

The Archbishop, standing before the representative married couples, says

A BLESSING

MAY God bestow his blessing of love, faithfulness and peace upon all who this year celebrate fifty years of marriage.

May the Father who created you, the Son who redeems you, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you, preserve and keep you all your days.

The Lord with his favour look upon you and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may so please him in this life, that in the world to come you may have life everlasting.

All **Amen.**

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

O THOU who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire
and still stir up the gift in me.

Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

*Hereford 233 AMNS
S S Wesley (1810-76)*

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)
Leviticus 6: 13*

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable
Dr George Carey

*Lord Archbishop of Canterbury,
Primate of All England and Metropolitan*

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

LOVE divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Blaenwern 131 (t 464) AMNS
William P Rowlands (1860-1937)
descant by Martin Neary*

Charles Wesley

All remain standing. The Dean says:

O ALMIGHTY Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

All remain standing. The Dean says

THE BLESSING

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 upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

A fanfare is sounded:

Golden Fanfare

*Malcolm Torrent (b 1950)
composed for this service*

The Dean conducts Her Majesty and His Royal Highness through the church to the Great West Door, during which all sing:

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.

As the Procession enters the Nave, all sing:

Thy choicest gifts in store
on her be pleased to pour,
long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

*Thesaurus Musicus (c 1743)
arranged by Martin Neary*

London Brass plays:

March, from Scipione (1726)

George Frideric Handel

The Collegiate Procession moves to the west end of the church.

The Members of the Royal Family are conducted to the west end of the church.

The Processions of Visiting Clergy and other Religious Representatives, and of the Archbishop of Canterbury, move to the west end of the church.

Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in their places until directed to move by the Stewards.

Music after the service:

Fanfare

Percy Whitlock (1903-46)

Prelude and fugue in C, BWV547

Johann Sebastian Bach

A peal of 5050 Stedman Caters – specially composed by Peter Swift and conducted by David Hilling – is rung on the Abbey bells commencing as Her Majesty and His Royal Highness leave the Abbey.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Second World War was recently over, though the nation was still suffering many deprivations, when the marriage of Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, RN, was solemnized in Westminster Abbey. Thursday 20 November 1947 was a day of spectacular pageantry that excited genuine enthusiasm among the people of the United Kingdom and peoples throughout the Empire. The Bride, accompanied by her father, His Majesty King George VI, was received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, officiated, assisted by the Dean, Dr Alan Don, and the Precentor, the Reverend Cyril Armitage. Dr Cyril Garbett, the Archbishop of York, gave the address.

The splendour of the occasion was uplifting and impressive. It felt to be, and was, a service with national significance. Yet, as Dr Garbett commented, in all its essentials it was the same as for any couple who might be married that day in any part of the country. "Everywhere and always this service is built round the taking of vows and the receiving of a blessing."

This is true of today's ceremony. It is a thanksgiving for vows sustained through the joys and sorrows of fifty years of marriage; and God's blessing is invoked for the years yet to come. These prayers are offered for Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, and for those throughout the nation and the Commonwealth who share this anniversary, representatives of whom have a part in the Abbey this morning.