

# The Temple Church

Wednesday 19 November 2025, 6.00 p.m.

## CHORAL EVENSONG

In Honour of St Cecilia's Day (22 November),  
prior to the Amity Dinner of Inner Temple and the Worshipful  
Company of City of London Solicitors

**Welcome to this service. It is a particular pleasure to welcome the Master, Court, Livery and Members of the City of London Solicitors. We follow the services of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). The words for the service can be found from p. 47 of the white booklet. The public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.**

### ORGAN PRELUDE

Master Tallis's Testament

*Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

### INTROIT

Tibi laus, tibi gloria,  
Tibi gratiarum actio in saecula sempiterna.  
O beata trinitas, et benedictum nomen Glorae tuae,  
Sanctum et laudabile et super exaltatum in saecula. Amen

*To you be praise, to you be Glory  
To you be thanks for ever and ever.  
O blessed trinity, blessed is the name of your glory,  
Holy and praiseworthy exalted above all for ever. Amen*

*Music: Felice Anerio (1560-1614)*

### HYMN

1.  
**He who would valiant be  
'Gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy  
Follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.**

2.  
**Who so beset him round  
With dismal stories  
Do but themselves confound  
His strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might;  
Though he with giants fight,  
He will make good his right  
To be a pilgrim.**

**3.  
Since, Lord, thou dost defend  
Us with thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end,  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.**

*Music: Monks Gate, adapted Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
Words: John Bunyan (1628-88) and Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

*All remain standing.*

#### OPENING PRAYER

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in  
unity. – Psalm 133.1*

We are gathered in the presence of almighty God to give thanks for the rule of law with which our land is blessed. We give thanks for our high calling to serve the Crown and all the people in the cause of justice; for the integrity and support of those around us and for our friendships in our firms, at the Bar and on the Bench. May we remain true, each in our own profession and life, to the highest standards and to ourselves, and be a true reflection in all our work of the justice and mercy of God.

May God sustain us in our duties, grant us humility and sound judgement, forgive us our errors, and inspire us with his wisdom. Here on earth may we serve more faithfully that heavenly justice in which alone we in the end can trust. Domine dirige nos.

*Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate.  
Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.  
– From Amos, Chapter 5*

So let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom of peace and of justice over all the earth, saying, as Jesus taught us:

*All sit or kneel for the Lord's Prayer.*

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.**

## THE RESPONSES (Ratcliffe)

### PSALM 48 (Bairstow)

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised :  
in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill.  
The hill of Sion is a fair place, and the joy of the whole earth :  
upon the north-side lieth the city of the great King; God is well known in  
her palaces as a sure refuge.  
For lo, the kings of the earth : are gathered, and gone by together.  
They marvelled to see such things :  
they were astonished, and suddenly cast down.  
Fear came there upon them, and sorrow : as upon a woman in her travail.  
Thou shalt break the ships of the sea : through the east-wind.  
Like as we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the  
city of our God : God upholdeth the same for ever.  
We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God : in the midst of thy temple.  
O God, according to thy Name, so is thy praise unto the world's end :  
thy right hand is full of righteousness.  
Let the mount Sion rejoice, and the daughter of Judah be glad :  
because of thy judgements.  
Walk about Sion, and go round about her : and tell the towers thereof.  
Mark well her bulwarks, set up her houses :  
that ye may tell them that come after.  
For this God is our God for ever and ever : he shall be our guide unto death.  
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.

*All sit.*

### THE FIRST LESSON

#### Isaiah 2. 2-4

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

*All stand.*

MAGNIFICAT (*Howells in B minor*)

*All sit.*

THE SECOND LESSON  
Philippians 4. 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

*All stand.* NUNC DIMITTIS (*Howells in B minor*)

*All remain standing and in the tradition of the Temple Church face East to say together:*  
THE CREED (p. 51, white booklet)

*All sit or kneel at 'Let us pray' ....*

THE RESPONSES (Smith)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All sit.*

ANTHEM

Sing for the morning's joy, Cecilia, sing,  
In words of youth and praises of the Spring,  
Walk the bright colonnades by fountains' spray,  
And sing as sunlight fills the waking day;  
Till angels, voyaging in upper air,  
Pause on a wing and gather the clear sound  
Into celestial joy, wound and unwound,  
A silver chain, or golden as your hair.

Sing for your loves of heaven and of earth,  
In words of music, and each word a truth;  
Marriage of heart and longings that aspire,  
A bond of roses, and a ring of fire.  
Your summertime grows short and fades away,  
Terror must gather to a martyr's death;  
But never tremble, the last indrawn breath  
Remembers music as an echo may.

Through the cold aftermath of centuries,  
Cecilia's music dances in the skies;  
Lend us a fragment of the immortal air,  
That with your choiring angels we may share,  
A word to light us thro' time-fettered night,  
Water of life, or rose of paradise,  
So from the earth another song shall rise  
To meet your own in heaven's long delight.

*Music:* Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*Words:* Ursula Vaughan Williams (1911-2007)

*All stand.*

## HYMN

**Glory to thee, my God, this night  
For all the blessings of the light;  
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
Beneath thy own almighty wings.**

**Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
The ill that I this day have done,  
That with the world, myself, and thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.**

**O may my soul on thee repose,  
And with sweet sleep my eyelids close,  
Sleep that may me more vigorous make  
To serve my God when I awake.**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him, all creatures here below,  
Praise him above, angelic host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*Music:* Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

*Words:* Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

THE BLESSING

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fugue in G

*Sir C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)*

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*There will be a retiring collection. If you prefer to donate online kindly scan the QR code below.*



*The congregation is warmly invited to refreshments in the Round Church after the service. A donation to help cover our costs is greatly appreciated. Thank you!*

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SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR MICHAELMAS TERM

**Wednesday 26 November, 6.00pm**

CHORAL EVENSONG

To celebrate American Thanksgiving (27 November)

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**Wednesday 3 December, 6.00pm**

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: Darkness to Light

The Temple Church Choir

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**Thursday 4 December, 7.30pm**

BACH: CHRISTMAS ORATORIO, BWV248

Cantatas I-III and VI

The Bar Choral Society

*Tickets required. For more information and to book: [www.templemusic.org](http://www.templemusic.org)*

**Friday 5 December, 6.00pm**

CONCERT: What sweeter music

Temple Singers

*Tickets required. For more information and to book: [www.templemusic.org](http://www.templemusic.org)*

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**Sunday 7 December, 11.15am**

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Temple Church Choir

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**Thursday 11 December, 6.00pm**

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Temple Church Choir

*(Repeat of Sunday 7 December service)*

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**Sunday 14 December, 11.15am**

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Temple Church Choir

*(Repeat of Sunday 7 December service).*

*This service is now fully booked. Tickets are required via Eventbrite.*

**and at 3.30pm**

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY

*If your children or grandchildren would like a speaking part in the play,  
please contact Catherine in the Church Office, [catherine@templechurch.com](mailto:catherine@templechurch.com)*

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**Monday 15 December, 6.00pm**

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Temple Singers

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**Tuesday 16 December, 6.15pm**

CAROLS FOR PRO BONO

Collegium Musicum of London

A charity event supporting the work of Advocate and LawWorks.

*Tickets required. For more information and to book: [www.templemusic.org](http://www.templemusic.org)*

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**Wednesday 17 December, 1.15pm**

**LUNCHTIME CAROLS SING-ALONG**

An informal half-hour of carol singing.

Requests will be taken!

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**Wednesday 17 December, 6.00pm**

**“BAH, HUMBUG?” – CERTAINLY NOT!  
CAROLS AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Temple Singers

*Tickets are not required.*

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**Thursday 18 December, 7.00pm**

**BRITTEN: A CEREMONY OF CAROLS**

The Temple Church Choristers

*Tickets required. For more information and to book: [www.templemusic.org](http://www.templemusic.org)*

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**Sunday 21 December, 11.15am**

**CHORAL COMMUNION**

Temple Singers

*Tickets not required.*

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**Wednesday 24 December, 11.15pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE: MIDNIGHT CHORAL COMMUNION**

Temple Singers

*Tickets not required.*

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**Thursday 25 December, 11.15am**

**CHRISTMAS DAY: CHORAL MATTINS**

Temple Church Choir

*Tickets not required.*

**SAFEGUARDING**

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be contacted confidentially at [safeguarding@templechurch.com](mailto:safeguarding@templechurch.com) or via 020 7427 5650.