

The Temple Church

Sunday 23 November 2025

The Sunday Next Before Advent

CHORAL COMMUNION, 11.15 a.m.

Welcome to this morning's service. We follow the services of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). If you are a visitor here and are a communicant member of your own Church, you are most welcome to receive Communion this morning; if you would prefer to receive a blessing, please just keep your head bowed and hands lowered when you are at the altar-rail. This is Christ's banquet; we are all his guests; and he bids us welcome.

This morning's Communion setting is Mozart's *Spatzenmesse*. Please turn to page 31 of the white service booklet where you will find the words of the service. The public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prelude in A minor BWV543

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

All stand at the entrance of the choir.

INTROIT

O King enthroned on high,
thou Comforter divine,
blest Spirit of all truth, be nigh
and make us thine.

Music: Henry Walford-Davies (1869-1941)

Words: John Brownlie (1857-1925)

HYMN 400

Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour

All sit or kneel after the Lord's prayer.

After the Summary of the Law the Choir sings:

THE KYRIE

THE COLLECT

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE EPISTLE

Jeremiah 23. 5-8

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness.

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

All stand for the Psalm.

PSALM 29 (Battishill)

Bring unto the Lord, O ye mighty, bring young rams unto the Lord:
ascribe unto the Lord worship and strength.

Give the Lord the honour due unto his Name:
worship the Lord with holy worship.

It is the Lord, that commandeth the waters:
it is the glorious God, that maketh the thunder.

It is the Lord, that ruleth the sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedar-trees:
yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Libanus.

He maketh them also to skip like a calf:
Libanus also, and Sirion, like a young unicorn.

The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness: yea, the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Cades.

The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to bring forth young, and discovereth the thick bushes: in his temple doth every man speak of his honour.

The Lord sitteth above the water-flood: and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.

The Lord shall give strength unto his people:
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

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.

The priest introduces the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL
John 6. 5-14

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

And Jesus said, Make the men sit down.

Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

All remain standing and (in the tradition of the Temple Church) all face East while the Choir and congregation sing the Creed.

THE CREED (p. 35, white booklet)

All sit.

THE SERMON
The Master

All stand.

HYMN 246
Angel voices, ever singing

All sit or kneel.

THE PRAYERS

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Lord, I trust thee, I adore thee
Ah! thou friend of man, restore me!
On thy loving grace relying
For the bread of life I'm sighing
Quench my thirst and let my hunger cease
Fill my heart with joy and endless peace
When the breath of life has left me
May my soul be blended with thee.

Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Words: George Frideric Handel and others

THE PRAYERS

All stand.

THE GLORIA

THE BLESSING

HYMN 224

Crown him with many crowns

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fugue in A minor BWV543

J. S. Bach (1675-1850)

There will be a retiring collection. It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly fill in a Gift Aid envelope and drop it into a collection-basket as you leave, stating the amount of your cash or contactless gift. If you would prefer to donate online kindly scan the QR code below. Thank you for your support of the Church.



*We ask your prayers for those dear to us in this House, and at this time
especially for the following:*

BAPTISM

Francis John Troutbeck Barclay
Hamish Alexander Lorcan Shiells
Olive Adeline Platt Wormald

ANNIVERSARIES OF MARRIAGE

Matthew and Nicola Barnes	Alan and Grace Karthikesalingham
Christopher and Vaw Brown	William and Beatrice McPhail
Anthony and Terina Corda	Michael and Alexandra Payne
Nicholas and Sally Forwood	Rory and Anna Phillips
Anthony and Nell Gamble	James and Emma Tussaud
Richard and Laura Hayward	Anthony and Sarah Walker
Jennifer Murray and Thomas Hage	David and Victoria Ward
Francis and Jessica Ijeh	Jerram and Eleanor White

THE DEPARTED

Gerard Ryan
Sheila Ryan
Peter Wilson

YEAR'S MIND

Roger Adams	Jeremy Hutchinson
John Ashton Thomas	P. D. James
Louis Blom-Cooper	Robin Leigh-Pemberton
Anthony Boswood	Dorothy Lloyd
Rupert Bromley	Charles McCullough
Peter Carter-Ruck	George Newman
Jonathan Culshaw	Murray Pickering
Paula Davies	Michael Pittaway
John Deby	Alison Ross
Hamish de Courcy Thompson	Jack Rumbold
Edgar Fay	Rodney Stewart Smith
James Flynn	Johan Steyn
Oliver Gadney	Michael Turner
Donald Gordon	Graeme Williams
Joan Hatcher	David Wood
Rose Heilbron	Michael Wood
John Hopkins	

SPECIAL AUTUMN EVENTS

Wednesday 26 November, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

To celebrate American Thanksgiving (27 November)

Music to include: I love thee, my Lord (George Shearing), With prayer and supplication (Amy Beach), Sing ye praises (Copland), The road home (Paulus)

Wednesday 3 December, 6.00pm

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: Darkness to Light

The Temple Church Choir

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

Friday 5 December, 6.00pm

CONCERT: What sweeter music

Temple Singers

Tickets required. For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

Sunday 7 December, 11.15am

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Temple Church Choir

Thursday 11 December, 6.00pm

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Temple Church Choir

(Repeat of Sunday 7 December service)

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

Monday 15 December, 6.00pm
CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Temple Singers

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

Wednesday 17 December, 1.15pm
LUNCHTIME CAROLS SING-ALONG

An informal half-hour of carol singing.

Requests will be taken!

Wednesday 17 December, 6.00pm
“BAH, HUMBUG?” – CERTAINLY NOT!
CAROLS AND READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Temple Singers

Tickets are not required.

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

Sunday 21 December, 11.15am
CHORAL COMMUNION

Temple Singers

Tickets not required.

Wednesday 24 December, 11.15pm
CHRISTMAS EVE: MIDNIGHT CHORAL COMMUNION

Temple Singers

Tickets not required.

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 or 020 7427 5650.