

The Temple Church

Wednesday 26 November 2025

To celebrate Thanksgiving in the United
States of America

CHORAL EVENSONG, 6.00 p.m.

Welcome to this service. It is a great pleasure for us to see you here this evening. We follow the services of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). The words to the service can be found in the white booklet pp 47-54.

This service is being live-streamed and will remain online for three days.

I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation, ... for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness ... for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

George Washington, 3 October 1789

ORGAN PRELUDE

I love thee, my Lord

George Shearing (London, 1919-New York, 2011)

George Shearing moved to the USA after World War II.

THE ROUND CHURCH

The Church's Round Church (1163), was the first Gothic building in England. It is modelled on Constantine's circular Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Resurrection) in Jerusalem.

George Sandys (1578-1644) of Middle Temple became in April 1621 colonial treasurer of the Virginia Company. When Virginia became a crown colony, Sandys was created a member of council (August 1624); he was reappointed in 1626 and 1628.

Soon after 1610 Sandys had visited Jerusalem. He was so moved by the Holy Sepulchre that he composed this hymn then and there.

Saviour of mankind, Man, Emmanuel:
Who sinless died for Sin, who vanquished hell.
The first fruits of the grave. Whose life did give
Light to our darkness: in whose death we live.
O strengthen thou my faith; correct my will,
That mine may thine obey: protect me still.
So that the latter death may not devour
My soul sealed with thy seale. So in the hour
When thou whose Body sanctified this tombe,
Unjustly judged, a glorious judge shalt come
To judge the world with justice: by that sign
I may be known, and entertained for thine.

All stand at the entrance of the choir.

INTROIT

With prayer and supplication,
let your requests be known unto God.
And the peace of God which passeth all understanding
shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Music: Amy Beach (New Hampshire, 1867-New York, 1944)

HYMN

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear:
Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth;
Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen.
How thy heart's wishes have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If to the end he befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.**

Music: Praxis pietatis, P. Sohren's edition of Praxis pietatis melica, 1668
Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680), tr. Catheine Winkworth

All remain standing.

BIDDING PRAYER

Roosevelt's envoy Harry Hopkins spent a month in the United Kingdom in January 1941, at the most perilous time of the War. During the trip Churchill took him to Scapa Flow, then to the Glasgow docks. At the end of a civic dinner in Glasgow, Hopkins spoke:

I suppose you wish to know what I am going to say to President Roosevelt on my return. Well, I'm going to quote you one verse from the Book of Books: 'Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.' He added quietly: 'Even to the end.'

Those present saw that Churchill was in tears.

We devote ourselves this evening to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. Within and between our lands we unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind care and protection of our peoples, for the degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty which we enjoy, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, for the deep friendship between us, and for all the great and various favours which he hath been pleased to confer upon our nations.

We give thanks for our own high calling to serve our fellow citizens in the cause of justice; and for the integrity and support of those around us. May God grant understanding and foresight to those in authority; courage to those

who serve in our courts; wisdom to those who sit in judgment; and compassion to those who seek justice for the poor and needy among us. Here on earth may we serve more faithfully that heavenly justice in which alone we in the end can trust.

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom of justice and of peace in the words that Christ has taught us.

All say: THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 48, white booklet)

All stand at 'Glory be to the Father...'

THE RESPONSES (*Leighton*)

PSALM 147. 1-12 (*Lawes*)

O praise the Lord, for it is a good thing to sing praises unto our God:

yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful.

The Lord doth build up Jerusalem: and gather together the out-casts of Israel.

He healeth those that are broken in heart:

and giveth medicine to heal their sickness.

He telleth the number of the stars: and calleth them all by their names.

Great is our Lord, and great is his power: yea, and his wisdom is infinite.

The Lord setteth up the meek: and bringeth the ungodly down to the ground.

O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving:

sing praises upon the harp unto our God;

Who covereth the heaven with clouds, and prepareth rain for the earth:

and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains, and herb for the use of men;

Who giveth fodder unto the cattle:

and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him.

He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse:

neither delighteth he in any man's legs.

But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him:

and put their trust in his mercy.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem: praise thy God, O Sion.

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.

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
From Jeremiah 30. 18-22

Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwellingplaces; and the city shall be builded upon her own foundation, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof. And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make

merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me. And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the Lord. And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT (*Second Service, Leighton*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
From Colossians 3. 1-16

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Clothe yourselves therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, with compassion, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thanksgiving in your hearts to the Lord.

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Second Service, Leighton*)

In the tradition of the Temple Church, we face East to say together:

THE CREED (p. 51 of white booklet)

All sit or kneel at 'Let us pray.' RESPONSES (*Leighton*)

THE COLLECTS

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.

All sit.

ANTHEM

Sing ye praises to our king and ruler.
Come and hear all ye men.
Come and hear my praises.
He doth bless all the earth.
Bringeth peace and comfort.
Shout unto God all ye men.
Shout unto God all your praises.
Sing ye praises to our king.
Come and praise him all ye men.
Shout and praise him all ye men.
He doth bless all the earth.
Bringeth peace to all men.

Music: Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

All remain sitting or kneel.

PRAYERS

There are two rules whereby we are to walk one towards another: Justice and Mercy. If thou lovest God thou must help thy brother. And the party loving, reaps love again. This bond of love will unite us as we seek out a place of cohabitation and consortship under a due form of government both civil and ecclesiastical. We must bear one another's burdens. We must not look only on our own things, but also on the things of our brethren. We must be knit together, in this work, as one man. We must entertain each other in brotherly affection. For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us.

— John Winthrop, 1630

We pray for all those who take counsel for the nations of the world, for those who bear the burden of government in our own lands, for their guidance by God's wisdom in these unsettled times. We give thanks for the ties of affection, ancient and forever renewed, between our nations, and pray that together we might rise to our shared calling to be cities upon a hill, bound by love, bearing one another's burdens, knit together in the service of justice and of peace. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

All stand.

HYMN

1.

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

2.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

3.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom heaven and earth adore,
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Music: Johannes Crüger (1598-1662)

Words: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878)

All remain standing.

THE BLESSING

Almighty God, source of all blessing, pour down the riches of thy grace upon the United States of America. Endow with thy spirit of wisdom the President, Senate and Congress and all those to whom in thy name the people entrusts the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to thy law the United States may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. **Amen.**

Adapted from Thomas Jefferson, A Prayer for the Nation, 1801.

And so may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Ghost be upon us all this night and for evermore. **Amen.**

FINAL ANTHEM

1.

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost
So long ago?

3.

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,

5.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;

2.

All these years I have wandered,
Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

4.

Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

6.

There is no such beauty
As where you belong;
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

Music: Stephen Paulus (New Jersey, 1949-Minnesota, 2014)

Words: Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

The Stars and Stripes forever

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)

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!

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be contacted confidentially at safeguarding@templechurch.com or 020 7427 5650.