

The Temple Church

Sunday 25 January 2026

The Conversion of Saint Paul

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 *Coronation Mass*. 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

Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

All stand at the entrance of the choir.

INTROIT

Videntes stellam Magi
Gavisi sunt gaudio magno:
et intrantes domum
obtulerunt Domino aurum,
thus et myrrham.

*When the wise men saw the star,
they were filled with joy:
They went into the house
and offered the Lord gold,
frankincense and myrrh.*

Music: Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Words: from Matthew 2. 11

HYMN 266

Thou, whose almighty word

CHORISTER AWARDS

Head Chorister – Elliott Hesketh
Deputy Head Chorister – Thomas Mayes
Rosina Hare Chorister – Hamish Ready

All sit or kneel after the Lord's prayer.

After the Summary of the Law the Choir sings:

THE KYRIE

THE COLLECT

O God, who, through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Saint Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may shew forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following the holy doctrine which he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR THE EPISTLE

Acts 9. 1-22

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And, as he journeyed, he came near Damascus, and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven. And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he, trembling and astonished, said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth, and when his eyes were opened he saw no man; but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias, coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way; for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: for I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and, putting his hands on him, said, Brother Saul, the Lord, (even Jesus that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest,) hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales; and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said, Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

All stand for the Psalm.

PSALM 67

God be merciful unto us, and bless us :

and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us;

That thy way may be known upon earth : thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God : yea, let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad :

for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God : let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase :

and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.

God shall bless us : and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

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
Matthew 19. 27-end

Peter answered and said unto Jesus, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

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 335
Blest are the pure in heart

All sit or kneel.

THE PRAYERS
COMMUNION ANTHEM

O salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.

*O saving Victim, opening wide
The gates of heaven to all below,
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.*

*All praise and thanks to thee ascend
Forevermore, blest One in Three
O grant us life that shall not end
In our true native land with thee.
Amen.*

*Music: Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Words: Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)*

THE PRAYERS

All stand.

THE GLORIA

THE BLESSING

HYMN 331

O Jesus I have promised

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Tanz toccata

Anton Heiller (1923-1979)

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.



SAFEGUARDING

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

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF MARRIAGE

John and Elise Crump
Ian and Jennifer Fitzgerald
Richard and Sonja Jayne Fowler
Ellis and Mary Knight
Jonathan and Louise Rich
Matthew and Claire White

THE DEPARTED

Oliver Marriott
James Munby

YEAR'S MIND

Mark Batchelor	Hugh Lawrence
Jane Belson	Jackie Leslie
Franziska (Cissy) Bennett	Sybil Lincoln
Richard Benson	Anthony Lloyd
Mark Cannon	Anthony May
Terence Coghlan	Charles McCullough
Richard Clegg	David Morgan
David Croft	Brian Nicholson
Robert Davey	Dennis Orde
David Dorey	Hugh Pigott
Luke Gordon Butler	Herschel Post
Richard Edwards	Richard Rampton
James Flynn	Douglas Ratcliffe
Michael Goulder	David Sears
Theodore Gulliford	Linda Sheppard-Levy
Peter Harrison	James Turner
Barbara Hewson	Roger Titheridge
David Hirst	David Vaughan
Igor Judge	Leonard Woodley

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 28 January, 6.00pm

**CHORAL EVENSONG FOR CANDLEMAS AND THE CONSECRATION OF
THE ROUND CHURCH (CANDLEMAS 1185)**

Music to include: Hail gladdening Light (Wood),
When to the Temple Mary went (Eccard)

Wednesday 11 February, 6.00pm

**CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ST VALENTINE'S DAY
AND FOR ALL OUR WEDDING COUPLES PAST AND FUTURE**

Music to include: If ye love me (Tallis), I was glad (Parry),
Zadok the Priest (Handel)

Wednesday 18 February, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG: ASH WEDNESDAY

Music to include: Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley),
Miserere mei (Allegri), Emendemus in Melius (Byrd)

Wednesday 25 February, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ST DAVID'S DAY

Sung by The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

Wednesday 4 March, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Temple Church Choir the Choir of Norwich Cathedral

Music to include: Hear my Prayer (Purcell), For lo, I raise up (Stanford)

Sunday 15 March, 11.15am

CHORAL MATTINS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

*Followed by Sunday lunch in Inner Temple for members of the Inns and
their guests. To book for the lunch, www.innertemple.org.uk*

Wednesday 18 March, 6.00pm
CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

Thursday 2 April, 1.15pm
CHORAL COMMUNION: MAUNDY THURSDAY

Friday 3 April, 11.15am
CHORAL MATTINS: GOOD FRIDAY

Saturday 4 April, 8.00pm
CHORAL COMMUNION: EASTER VIGIL

Sunday 5 April, 11.15am
CHORAL COMMUNION: EASTER SUNDAY
