

The Temple Church

Wednesday 21 January 2026, 6.00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Welcome to this service. It is a pleasure to welcome you here this evening. 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

In nomine

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

INTROIT

Lully Lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by lully lullay.

O sisters too how may we do,
For to preserve this day,
This poor youngling for whom we do sing,
by by lully lullay.

Herod the king in his raging,
Charged he hath this day,
His men of might in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me poor child for thee,
And ever mourn and say,
for thy parting, neither say nor sing,
by by lully lullay.

Lully Lulla, thou little tiny child,
By by lully lullay.

Music: Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Words: English Traditional Carol

HYMN

1.

**At the Name of Jesus,
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.**

3.

**Bore it up triumphant
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures,
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.**

2.

**Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it,
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death He passed.**

4.

**Name Him, brothers, name Him,
With love strong as death
But with awe and wonder,
And with bated breath!
He is God the Saviour,
He is Christ the Lord,
Ever to be worshipped,
Trusted and adored.**

Music: William Monk (1823-1889)

Words: Caroline M. Noel (1817-1877)

THE RESPONSES (*Smith*)

PSALM 147. 1-12 (*Noble*)

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

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
Isaiah 49. 1-7

Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me; And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.

Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God. And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.

And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT
(*Sixth Service, Weelkes*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
John 1. 29-42

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore

am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS
(*Sixth Service, Weekes*)

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

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All sit.

ANTHEM

See, the Word is incarnate; God is made man in the womb of a Virgin.
Shepherds rejoice, wise men adore and angels sing
'Glory be to God on high: peace on earth, good will towards men.'

The law is cancelled,
Jews and Gentiles converted by the preaching of glad tidings of salvation.
The blind have sight and cripples have their motion;
diseases cured, the dead are raised, and miracles are wrought.
Let us welcome such a guest with Hosanna.

The Paschal Lamb is offered, Christ Jesus made a sacrifice for sin.
The earth quakes, the sun is darkened, the powers of hell are shaken;
and lo, he is risen up in victory.
Sing Alleluia.

See, O see the fresh wounds, the gored blood,
the prick of thorns, the print of nails.
And in the sight of multitudes a glorious ascension.

When now he sits on God's right hand
where all the choir of heaven all jointly sing:
Glory be to the Lamb that sitteth on the throne.
Let us continue our wonted note with Hosanna:
Blessed be He that cometh in the Name of the Lord;
with Alleluia, we triumph in victory,
the serpent's head is bruised, Christ's kingdom exalted,
and heaven laid open to sinners.

Amen.

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

HYMN

**Bethlehem, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare,
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us incarnate bear.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth,
To the lands their God announcing,
Seen in fleshly form on earth.**

**By its lambent beauty guided
See the eastern kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,
Gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.**

**Solemn things of mystic meaning:
Incense doth the God disclose,
Gold a royal child proclaimeth,
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.**

**Holy Jesu, in thy brightness
To the Gentile world displayed,
With the Father and the Spirit
Endless praise to thee be paid. Amen.**

*Music: Stuttgart, from a melody in *Harmonia Sacra* Gotha 1715
Words: Latin, Prudentis 348-410, tr Edward Caswall (1814-78)*

THE BLESSING

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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 via 020 7427 5650.

Future Highlights

It would be lovely to see you again at some of these 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
