

The Temple Church

Wednesday 11 February 2026

CHORAL EVENSONG, 6.00 p.m.

*for St Valentine's Day and in Thanksgiving
for all the Marriages celebrated and blessed at
Temple Church.*

Welcome to this service. We follow the services of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). The order of service is printed in the Service Booklet, pp. 47-54. The public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.

All stand at the entry of Choir and Clergy.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prière à Notre-Dame

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

INTROIT

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you
another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the spirit of truth.

*Music: Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)
Words: John 14. 15-17*

HYMN

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

**And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.**

Music: Thaxted, Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Words: Sir Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918)

All sit.

INTRODUCTION

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: and both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.... And when the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, and saith unto him, 'Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.'

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

— John 2, from 1-11

In Cana in ancient Galilee a couple were joining in marriage; they were exchanging their old life apart for a new life together; they were asking God's blessing on their union and their future.

Jesus by his presence and miracle revealed God's own delight in such loving and faithful commitment; he transformed the basic necessity of life into the stuff of celebration; and he heralded the new commitment — loving, faithful and eternal — of God to all his children.

We give heartfelt thanks to God for all the marriages we celebrate and bless here, and for all those whom we know who have committed themselves to each other in joyful fidelity and love. We pray for the couples themselves and their children and that their homes may be places of love, security and truth.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION (p. 47 of white booklet)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 48 of white booklet)

All stand at 'Glory be.....'

THE RESPONSES (*Radcliffe*)

All sit.

PSALM

I was glad when they said unto me:
We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Music: Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

Words: Psalm 122. 1-3, 6-7

All stand.

HYMN

1.

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.**

2.

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.**

5.

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!**

Music: Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
Song of Solomon 2. 10-13, 8. 6-7

My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT (*Stanford in G*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
1 Corinthians 13

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Stanford in G*)

CREED (p. 51 of white booklet)

All sit or kneel at 'Let us pray'

RESPONSES (*Radcliffe*)

THE COLLECTS

O God our Father, from the beginning thou hast blessed creation with abundant life. Pour out thy blessings upon all who are joined in a promise of faithful love, that they may continue in joyful commitment to each other all the days of their life. Grant them such strength as may support them in all dangers, until at last they are united with yourself in the marriage feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do: Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All sit.

THE ANTHEM

Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, anointed Solomon king.
And all the people rejoiced, and said,
God save the king. Long live the king.
May the king live forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Music: Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Words: 1 Kings 1. 39, 40

PRAYERS

All stand.

HYMN

**And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?**

**Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.**

Music: Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)
Words: William Blake (1757-1827)

THE BLESSING

SUNG BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you:
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you:
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Amen.

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)
Words: Numbers 6. 24-26

All are invited to sit after the departure of the Choir and Clergy for

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata, *Symphony no. 5*

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection.

If you would prefer to donate online the Church has a Just Giving page.

For donations this way, 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 via 020 7427 5650.

DRINKS IN THE ROUND

It is a delight to see you all here this evening. Please join us for a drink in the Round after the service. (A small donation to help cover our costs is always greatly appreciated.)

February/March Highlights

Tuesday 17 February, 7.00pm

MERLIN'S ISLE: A JOURNEY IN WORDS AND MUSIC

Malcolm Guite and the St Martin's Voices

*Tickets: £15 (£10 concessions). For more information and to book,
www.canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/events*

Wednesday 18 February, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG: ASH WEDNESDAY

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

Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm

TEMPLE MUSIC FOUNDATION

CONCERT: THINGS INVISIBLE TO SEE

**Hamish McLaren *countertenor*, Ana Beard Fernández *soprano*,
Matthew Jorysz *piano***

For more information and to book, www.templemusic.org

Wednesday 25 February, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ST DAVID'S DAY

Sung by The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

Tickets are not required.

Wednesday 4 March, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Temple Church Choir

with special guests, the Choir of Norwich Cathedral

**Thursday 5 March, 9.00pm
COMPLINE**

**Thursday 12 March, 7.30pm
TEMPLE MUSIC FOUNDATION
BACH: ST JOHN PASSION**

Thomas Allery *conductor*, Temple Singers, Temple Players
For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org

**Sunday 15 March, 11.15am
CHORAL MATTINS: MOTHERING SUNDAY**

*Followed by Special Mothers' Day Sunday lunch in Inner Temple for
members of the Inns and their guests.*
To book for lunch: www.innertemple.org.uk/events

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

*Music to include: A Prayer for St Patrick (Rutter),
Beati quorum via (Stanford), Irish Blessing (Chilcott)*

**Sunday 29 March, 11.15am
CHORAL COMMUNION: PALM SUNDAY**

*Music to include: Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes),
Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria)*
