

The Temple Church

Wednesday 4 February 2026, 6.00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG

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

Miserere

William Byrd (1540-1623)

INTROIT

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi, Dignare clemens supplicum
laudes precesque sumere. Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro
perditis. Nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis

*O Light of light, by love inclined, Jesus Redeemer of mankind,
With loving kindness deign to hear From suppliant voices praise and prayer,
Thou who to raise our souls from hell Didst deign in fleshly form to dwell,
Vouchsafe us, when our race is run, In thy fair body to be one.*

Music: Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Words: 10th cent. Hymn for the Transfiguration, Cantiones Sacrae, 1575

HYMN 298

Lead, kindly light

THE RESPONSES *(Smith)*

PSALM 45. 1-8 *(Ferguson)*

My heart is inditing of a good matter:

I speak of the things which I have made unto the King.

My tongue is the pen: of a ready writer.

Thou art fairer than the children of men:

full of grace are thy lips, because God hath blessed thee for ever.

Gird thee with thy sword upon thy thigh, O thou most Mighty:

according to thy worship and renown.

Good luck have thou with thine honour:

ride on, because of the word of truth, of meekness, and righteousness; and
thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.

Thy arrows are very sharp, and the people shall be subdued unto thee:
even in the midst among the King's enemies.

Thy seat, O God, endureth for ever:

the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity:

wherefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness
above thy fellows.

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

Genesis 1. 1-5

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT

(Oriel service, Bingham)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 20. 1-16

For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.

But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS
(Oriel Service, Bingham)

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

O Lord, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

All sit.

ANTHEM

Sing joyfully unto God our strength:

make a cheerful noise to the God of Jacob.

Take the psalm, bring hither the tabret: the merry harp with the lute.

Blow the trumpet in the new moon:

ev'n in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast day.

For this was made a statute for Israel: and a law of the God of Jacob.

Music: John Mundy (c. 1560-1630)
Words: Psalm 81. 1-4

HYMN 23 (OMIT V 5)
Glory to thee, my God, this night

THE BLESSING

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Symphonie no 9, movement 2
1937)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-

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!

SPECIAL EVENSONG SERVICE

Wednesday 11 February, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ST VALENTINE'S DAY

AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR ALL WEDDINGS CELEBRATED AND

BLESSED AT THE TEMPLE CHURCH

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

SAFEGUARDING

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