

The Temple Church

Wednesday 25 March 2026, 6.00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Welcome to this service. It is a pleasure to see you here. 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

Attende Domine

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

All stand at the entrance of the choir.

INTROIT

Ah Lord, we shall walk, in peace.
We shall walk through the valley in peace.
There will be no trials there.
If Jesus himself shall be our lead.
Lord, we shall walk in peace.

*Music: Traditional Spiritual, arr. Undine Smith Moore
Words: Traditional Spiritual*

HYMN 633

*Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, brethren, follow where our Captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.
Lift high the cross, etc...

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.
Lift high the cross, etc...

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
Beneath the shadow of its healing peace.
Lift high the cross, etc....

For thy blest Cross which doth for all atone
Creation's praises rise before thy throne.
Lift high the Cross, etc....

Music: Crucifer, Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947)
Words: George Kitchin (1827-1912), alt. Michael Newbolt (1874-1956)

THE RESPONSES (*McDowall*)

PSALM 139. 1-18

O Lord, thou hast searched me out, and known me:
thou knowest my down-sitting, and mine up-rising; thou understandest my
thoughts long before.
Thou art about my path, and about my bed: and spiest out all my ways.
For lo, there is not a word in my tongue:
but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.
Thou hast fashioned me behind and before: and laid thine hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me:
I cannot attain unto it.
Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit:
or whither shall I go then from thy presence?
If I climb up into heaven, thou art there:
if I go down to hell, thou art there also.
If I take the wings of the morning:
and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;
Even there also shall thy hand lead me: and thy right hand shall hold me.
If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me:
then shall my night be turned to day.
Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day:
the darkness and light to thee are both alike.
For my reins are thine: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.
My bones are not hid from thee:
though I be made secretly, and fashioned beneath in the earth.
Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect:
and in thy book were all my members written;
Which day by day were fashioned: when as yet there was none of them.
How dear are thy counsels unto me, O God: O how great is the sum of them!
If I tell them, they are more in number than the sand:
when I wake up I am present with thee.
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 7. 10-14

Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.

But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD.

And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT (*St Alban's service, McDowall*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1. 26-38

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

All stand. NUNC DIMITTIS (*St Alban's service, McDowall*)

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 (*McDowall*)

THE COLLECTS

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All sit.

ANTHEM

In what torne ship soever I embarke
That ship shall be my embleme of thy Arke;
What sea soever swallow mee, that flood
Shall be to mee an embleme of thy blood;
Though thou with clouds of anger do disguise
Thy face; yet through that maske I know those eyes
Which, though they turne away sometimes
They never will despise.

I sacrifice this Iland unto thee
And all whom I lov'd there, and who lov'd mee;
When I have put our seas twixt them and mee,
Put thou thy sea betwixt my sinnes and thee
As the trees sap doth seeke the root below
In winter, in my winter now I goe
Where none but thee, th'Eternall root
Of true Love I may know.

Music: Imogen Holst (1907-1984)

Words: based on poem by John Donne (1572-1631)

HYMN

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore.**

Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) based on Luke 1.46-55

THE BLESSING

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fugue sopra il Magnificat

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!*

CONFIRMATION

Our annual celebratory service of Baptism, Confirmation and Choral Communion will take place on Sunday 19 July at 11.15am.

If you, your children or grandchildren are considering Confirmation this year, the Revd Griffith-Jones will be delighted to hear from you. Master@templechurch.com

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you would like to join our emailing list and be among the first to hear of our special services and events, you will find cards at the South Door exit. Kindly write your name and email address on a card and leave it in the bowl provided.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please refrain from all filming, recording and photography during the service.
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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Wednesday 1 April, 6.00pm
CHORAL EVENSONG FOR HOLY WEEK
Temple Singers

Thursday 2 April, 1.15pm
CHORAL COMMUNION: MAUNDY THURSDAY
Temple Singers

Friday 3 April, 11.15am
CHORAL MATTINS: GOOD FRIDAY
Temple Church Choir
Music to include: Salvator Mundi (Tallis), Crucifixus (Lotti),

Saturday 4 April, 8.00pm
EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST COMMUNION OF EASTER
Temple Singers
*Music to include: Missa ego fos campi (Padilla),
Haec dies (Byrd), Tulerunt dominum meum (Gombert)*

Sunday 5 April, 11.15am
CHORAL COMMUNION: EASTER SUNDAY
Temple Church Choir
*Music to include: Surrexit Christus hodie (Scheidt),
Easter Anthems, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us,
Hallelujah (Handel), Ave verum corpus (Mozart)*

Wednesday 15 April, 6.00pm
EASTER CAROL SERVICE
Temple Singers

Sunday 19 April, 11.15am
EASTER CAROL SERVICE
Temple Singers
Music to include: Five Mystical Songs (Vaughan Williams)