

The Temple Church

Wednesday 20 May 2026, 6.00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG

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

Prelude in F

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

All stand at the entrance of the choir.

HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Music: Blaenwern, William P. Rowlands (1860-1937)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

All sit.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

All stand at 'Glory be to the Father.....'

THE RESPONSES (*Clucas*)

PSALM 149 (*Alcock*)

O sing unto the Lord a new song:

let the congregation of saints praise him.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:

and let the children of Sion be joyful in their King.

Let them praise his Name in the dance:

let them sing praises unto him with tabret and harp.

For the Lord hath pleasure in his people: and helpeth the meek-hearted.

Let the saints be joyful with glory: let them rejoice in their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their mouth:

and a two-edged sword in their hands;

To be avenged of the heathen: and to rebuke the people;

To bind their kings in chains: and their nobles with links of iron.

That they may be avenged of them, as it is written:

Such honour have all his saints.

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

Verses from Isaiah 61

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT (*Stanford in A*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
Verses from Romans, Chapter 12

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every one that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every one the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no one evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all people.

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Stanford in A*)

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.

THE COLLECTS

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

All sit.

ANTHEM

Omnes gentes, plaudite manibus;
jubilate Deo in voce exsultationis:
quoniam Dominus excelsus, terribilis,
rex magnus super omnem terram.
Subjecit populos nobis,
et gentes sub pedibus nostris.
Elegit nobis haereditatem suam;
speciem Jacob quam dilexit.
Ascendit Deus in jubilo,
et Dominus in voce tubae.
Psallite Deo nostro, psallite;
psallite regi nostro, psallite;
quoniam rex omnis terrae Deus,
psallite sapienter.
Regnabit Deus super gentes;
Deus sedet super sedem sanctam
suam. Principes populorum
congregati sunt cum Deo Abraham,
quoniam dii fortes terrae
vehementer elevati sunt.

*O clap your hands together, all ye people:
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the Lord is high, and to be feared:
he is the great King upon all the earth.
He shall subdue the people under us:
and the nations under our feet.
He shall choose out an heritage for us:
even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.
God is gone up with a merry noise:
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.
O sing praises, sing praises unto our God:
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
For God is the King of all the earth:
sing ye praises with understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen:
God sitteth upon his holy seat.
The princes of the people are joined unto the
people of the God of Abraham:
for God, which is very high exalted,
doth defend the earth, as it were with a
shield.*

*Music: Christopher Tye (c.1505-1573)
Words: Psalm 47*

PRAYERS

HYMN

**All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore,
From his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.**

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Words: Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

THE BLESSING

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fantasia in D minor

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

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 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 19 JULY AT 11.15AM

BAPTISM CONFIRMATION AND CHORAL COMMUNION

We are delighted that The Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington and Acting Bishop of London will be presiding at our annual celebratory service this summer.

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY, 6PM

CHORAL EVENSONG AND FAREWELL

A special service as we bid farewell and happy retirement to Robin Griffith-Jones, The Reverend and Valiant Master of the Temple.
Followed by drinks and jazz in Church Court.

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.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Friday 22 May, 7.30pm

**CONCERT: RAPHAEL WALLFISCH PERFORMS BACH
Cello Suites nos. 1, 2 and 3**

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

Monday 8 June, 5.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

*Sung by The Temple Church Choir
To include music by Noble and Bairstow*

Tuesday 9 June, 7.30pm

**CONCERT: Courtney Pine presents Song
(The Ballad Book)**

We are delighted to welcome to Temple Church ground-breaking saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist, Courtney Pine CBE for an intimate show with MOBO award-winning pianist, Zoe Rahman.

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

Wednesday 17 June, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG
Sung by The Bar Choral Society

Sunday 21 June, 11.15am

CHORAL MATTINS
Sung by The Temple Church Choir

*Followed by Father's Day Sunday lunch in Middle Temple for
members of the Inns and their guests.*

To book for the lunch: 020 7427 4800

Tuesday 23 June, 7.30pm

CONCERT: A CELEBRATION OF BENJAMIN BRITTEN
The Bar Choral Society

Greg Morris, *conductor*; Francois Cloete, *organ*

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

Thursday 25 June, 6pm-7pm

CONCERT: SONGS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

Temple Singers, Temple Church Choristers, Temple City Singers,
and children from local schools.

This concert will centre around Michael Tippett's 'Four Songs
from the British Isles' alongside folksong arrangements by
Benjamin Britten. This concert is kindly supported by The
Michael Tippett Musical Foundation.

Free Admission

Friday 26 June, 8pm

COMPLINE

Sung by the Temple Church Youth Choir

Sunday 28 June, 11.15am

CHORAL COMMUNION

*Followed by the Big Picnic in Inner Temple Gardens.
To book for the Big Picnic: www.innertemple.org.uk/events*
