

The Temple Church

Wednesday 17 June 2026, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sung by The Bar Choral Society

Welcome to this service. It is a pleasure for all of us at the Temple Church that you are here this evening. We extend an especially warm welcome to the Bar Choral Society who will sing the service. We follow the services of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). The public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Sonata No. 5, movement 1

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

All stand.

HYMN

**O praise ye the Lord! praise him in the height;
Rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
Ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,
And worship before him, in brightness arrayed.**

**O praise ye the Lord! praise him upon earth,
In tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
Praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
Praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.**

**O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;
Each jubilant chord re-echo around;
Loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
And, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.**

**O praise ye the Lord! thanksgiving and song
To him be outpoured all ages along:
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!**

*Music: C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)
Words: H. W. Baker (1821-1877) based on Psalm 150*

BIDDING AND INVITATION TO CONFESSION

(p. 47 of white booklet)

We all sit or kneel and say together:

CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins; He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All say:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

All stand at 'Glory be to the Father'

THE RESPONSES

(Plainsong)

The following hymn is sung by the choir and the congregation together:

FOR THE PSALM

**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.**

*Music: Louis Bourgeois (c. 1500-1561)
Words: Psalm 100*

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
Daniel 3. 13, 14, 16-20, 23-25

Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT (*Walmisley in D minor*)

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm:
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
 and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
 and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
 as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
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.

Words: St Luke 1. 46-55

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
Romans 8. 31-39

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All stand. NUNC DIMITTIS (*Walmisley in D minor*)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

Words: St Luke 2. 29-32

In the tradition of the Temple Church, we face east to say together:

THE CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

All sit or kneel.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Lord, who never failest to help and govern them who thou dost bring up in thy stedfast fear and love: Keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.
Love is strong as death.
Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.
Who his own self bare our sins in his Body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.
Ye are washed, ye are sanctified,
ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
that ye should shew forth the praises of him
who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Music: John Ireland (1879-1962)

Words: Canticles 8; St John 15; I Peter 2; I Corinthians 6; Romans 12

THE PRAYERS

All stand.

HYMN

**O thou who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.**

**There let it for thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return
In humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work and speak and think for thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire
And still stir up thy gift in me.**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat;
Till death thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.**

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

THE BLESSING

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Sonata No. 5, movement 2

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

The congregation is welcome to join us for drinks in the Round Church after the service. A donation to help cover the costs is greatly appreciated.

There will be a retiring collection. If you would prefer to donate online, kindly scan the QR code below.



SPECIAL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 22 July, 6.00pm
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.

SAFEGUARDING

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

The full Safeguarding Policy is available on the Temple Church website at <https://www.templechurch.com/safeguarding-policy>

HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE

Sunday 21 June, 11.15am

CHORAL MATTINS

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
