

The Temple Church

Wednesday 3 June 2026, 6.00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG: For the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elisabeth

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

Freu dich sehr, O meine Seele

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

All stand at the entrance of the choir.

INTROIT

Holy, holy, holy
God almighty Lord!
Holy, holy, holy
Everywhere adored!

Power and love and wonder
Circling round his throne
Praise him, holy, holy
Lord of life alone.

He without beginning
He th' eternal one
Reigns and rules for ever
All things 'neath the sun.

Holy, holy, holy
God almighty Lord!
Holy, holy, holy
Everywhere adored!

Music: Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

HYMN

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
Liftest up thy people's head.**

Alleluia!

Jesu, true and living Bread!

**Here our humblest homage pay we,
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for faith's discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.**

Alleluia!

Thou art here, we ask not how.

**Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and Flower of Jesse's Stem.
Alleluia!
We in worship join with them.**

**Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fulness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia!
Cleansing souls from every stain.**

**Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
Stricken Rock, with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia!
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

*Music: George Bourne (1840-1925)
Words: St Helen, Sir George Martin (1844-1916)*

All sit or kneel for the Confession and Absolution.

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

THE RESPONSES (*Clucas*)

PSALM 28 (*Turle*)

Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my strength:
think no scorn of me; lest, if thou make as though thou hearest not, I
become like them that go down into the pit.
Hear the voice of my humble petitions, when I cry unto thee:
when I hold up my hands towards the mercy-seat of thy holy temple.
O pluck me not away, neither destroy me with the ungodly and wicked doers:
which speak friendly to their neighbours, but imagine mischief in their hearts.
Reward them according to their deeds:
and according to the wickedness of their own inventions.
Recompense them after the work of their hands:
pay them that they have deserved.
For they regard not in their mind the works of the Lord, nor the operation of
his hands: therefore shall he break them down, and not build them up.
Praised be the Lord: for he hath heard the voice of my humble petitions.

The Lord is my strength, and my shield; my heart hath trusted in him, and I am helped:

therefore my heart danceth for joy, and in my song will I praise him.

The Lord is my strength: and he is the wholesome defence of his Anointed.

O save thy people, and give thy blessing unto thine inheritance:

feed them, and set them up 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.

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
1 Samuel 1. 20, 2. 1-10

It came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble.

The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

All stand.

The Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Visitation to Elizabeth.

Luke 1. 46-55

MAGNIFICAT (*Noble, in B minor*)
(*Page 49 of white booklet*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
Luke 1. 39-45

And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Noble, in B minor*)

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 (*Clucas*)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech thee, that thou wouldest keep us stedfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

All sit.

ANTHEM

Blessed city, heavenly Salem,
Vision dear of peace and love,
Who of living stones art builded
In the height of heaven above,
And by angel hands apparelled,
As a bride doth earthward move;

Out of heaven from God descending,
New and ready to be wed
To thy Lord, whose love espoused thee,
Fair adorned shalt thou be led;
All thy gates and all thy bulwarks
Of pure gold are fashioned.

Bright thy gates of pearl are shining;
They are open evermore;
And their well-earned rest attaining
Thither faithful souls do soar,
Who for Christ's dear name in this world
Pain and tribulation bore.

Many a blow and biting sculpture
Polished well those stones elect,
In their places now compacted
By the heavenly architect,
Nevermore to leave the Temple
Which with them the Lord hath decked.

To this Temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of hosts, today;
With thy wonted loving kindness,
Hear thy servants as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls alway.
Amen.

Music: Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

Words: Latin, seventh century, trans. John Mason Neale, 1851

PRAYERS

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*

THE BLESSING

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Lauda Sion

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

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 DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**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.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE

Monday 8 June, 5.00pm
CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
Sung by The Temple Church Choir

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

Thursday 2 JULY, 6.30pm

CONCERT: SPEM IN ALIUM THE 40 VOICE SPECTACULAR

Temple Singers, Thomas Allery, conductor

Music to include: Celia Virgo (Gabriel Jackson),

Hymn to the Mother of God (Tavener).

Promoted by Temple Music Foundation

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

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.