The Temple Church
Wednesday 3 July 2019, 5.30 p.m.

To Celebrate Independence Day
in The United States of America
John Trumbull, The Declaration of Independence: The Drafting Committee presenting its Work, with seven members of Inner / Middle Temple: John Dickinson, Thomas Heyward, Thomas Lynch, Thomas McKean, Arthur Middleton, William Paca and Edward Rutledge. All were signatories except John Dickinson, who, in his continued hope for reconciliation with Britain, declined to sign.

In 1776 the signatories to the Constitution included, from Inner and Middle Temple, John Blair, John Dickinson, Jared Ingersoll, William Livingstone, Charles Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and John Rutledge.

‘I am apt to believe that [Independence Day] will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.’

– John Adams, to his wife, 3 July 1776.

Welcome to this evening’s service in celebration of Independence Day. We are delighted that you have been able to join us. It is a particular pleasure to welcome the American Bar Association, Section of International Law, Chair: Robert Brown, at the culmination of your Oxford Conference.

The Temple’s Round Church was built by 1162. It is London’s Jerusalem, modelled on the circular Church of the Holy Sepulchre, site of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. To be in the Round was to be ‘in’ Jerusalem, at the centre of the world.
Since 1214, the Round Church has been the Mother-Church and cradle of the Common Law. Magna Carta was negotiated in the Temple; its hero William Marshal was buried in the Round Church where his effigy still lies.

Since 1584, the Temple Church has been America’s Church in London. The central figures in the Virginia expeditions – Raleigh, Amadas and Gosnold, and the constitutional draftsmen Coke, Popham and Sandys – were all members of Inner or Middle Temple.

Six Members of Inner or Middle Temple would be signatories to the Declaration of Independence; seven, to the Constitution.

Successive American Ambassadors have been elected Benchers of Middle Temple. Those who are dining in Middle Temple Hall this evening will enter under the beautifully flamboyant screen of the 1580s. It was blown into thousands of pieces by an aerial bomb that exploded just outside the Hall’s eastern wall in the Blitz. It was painstakingly repaired, over the next 10 years; 90% of the wood you will see is the original carved wood of the 16th century. The repair was made possible by the generosity of the American Bar Association, acknowledged on a panel under the screen.

We are now launching our next project, for the Church itself: for the repair of the majestic Great Norman Doorway through which you entered the Church this evening. It is a masterpiece of 12th century stonework. The years have taken their toll. We are about to bring it back to its original glory, and to make it once more the permanent principal entrance to the Church.

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John Rutledge, later Chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution and the second Chief Justice of the United States, was called to the Bar by Middle Temple in 1760. He advised his younger brother Edward, who would become Governor of South Carolina, about life in London: ‘By no means fall into the too common practice of not frequenting a place of worship. This you may do, I think, every Sunday. There is generally a good preacher at the Temple Church, and it would be more to your credit to spend a few hours of that day there, than is generally spent in London.’

This evening we do not have a sermon; but we hope that John Rutledge would have felt vindicated in his recommendation by this service of celebration.
The Temple Church Choir in Washington DC to sing at the Supreme Court and Library of Congress at the launch of the Exhibit, Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor, 2014.

**Organ Prelude**

Fanfare for the Common Man      *Aaron Copland (1900–1990)*

*All stand at the entrance of the choir and clergy.*

**Processional Hymn**

God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home;

Beneath the shadow of thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God,  
To endless years the same.
A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home!

Music: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Words: Based on Psalm 90

BIDDING AND OPENING PRAYER

‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed .... We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States .... And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.’

From The Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776
Let us unite in rendering, unto the beneficent Author of all the
good that was, that is, or that will be, our sincere and humble
thanks for his kind care and protection of the people of our
countries: for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favourable
interpositions of his Providence which we have experienced in the
tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we enjoy; for the peaceable and
rational manner, in which, in both lands, we have been enabled to
establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness;
for wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and properly
executed and obeyed, and in our courts faithfully administered for
the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and in
general for all the great and various favours which he hath been
pleased to confer upon our lands.

Adapted from George Washington, Thanksgiving Proclamation,
New York, 1789.

Let us sum up all our prayers for our world, our countries and
ourselves the words that Jesus himself has taught us:

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 for the Psalm, sung by the Choir.
PSALM 85 (Battishill)

Read at the opening session of the First Continental Conference, September 1774.

LORD, thou art become gracious unto thy land:
    thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.
Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people:
    and covered all their sins.
Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure:
    and turned thyself from thy wrathful indignation.
Turn us then, O God our Saviour: and let thine anger cease from us.
Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever:
    and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath from one generation to another?
Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us:
    that thy people may rejoice in thee?
Shew us thy mercy, O Lord: and grant us thy salvation.
I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me:
    for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints,
    that they turn not again.
For his salvation is nigh them that fear him:
    that glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth are met together:
    righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
    and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.
Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness:
    and our land shall give her increase.
Righteousness shall go before him:
    and he shall direct his going in the way.
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.
All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: lest thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, and thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

Here endeth the First Lesson.
MAGNIFICAT

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.

Music: Collegium Regale, Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Words: St Luke 1. 46-55

All sit.
The Gospel according to St Matthew, the fifth Chapter.

Seeing the multitudes, Jesus went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.  
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.  
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.
NUNC DIMITTIS

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.

Music: Collegium Regale, Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Words: St Luke 2. 29-32

All kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS

Lord, our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings,
Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy
throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; Most heartily we
beseech thee with thy favour to behold our most gracious Sovereign
Lady, Queen ELIZABETH; and so replenish her with the grace of
thy Holy Spirit, that she may alway incline to thy will, and walk in
thy way. Endue her plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant her in
health and wealth long to live; strengthen her that she may vanquish
and overcome all her enemies; and finally, after this life, she may
attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Almighty God, source of all blessing, pour down the riches of thy grace upon the United States of America. Defend its people’s liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought thither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with thy spirit of wisdom the President, Senate and Congress and all those whom in thy name the people entrusts with the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to thy law the United States may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. Amen.

Adapted from Thomas Jefferson, A Prayer for the Nation, 1801.

May Almighty God grant us grace in our two nations to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God. May we delight in each other; make each others’ conditions our own; rejoice together, mourn together, labour and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, as members of the same body. So may we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. For as two nations joined in friendship we are each of us as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. Amen.

Adapted from Governor John Winthrop, 1630.

The congregation sits. The Choir sings the Anthem.
The promise of living with hope and thanksgiving is born of our loving our friends and our labor.

The promise of growing with faith and with knowing is born of our sharing our love with our neighbor.

For many a year we've known these fields and known all the work that makes them yield. Are you ready to lend a hand? We'll bring in the harvest, the blessings of harvest.

We plant each row with seeds of grain, and Providence sends us the sun and the rain. By lending a hand, by lending an arm, bring out from the farm, bring out the blessings of harvest.

Give thanks there was sunshine, give thanks there was rain.
Give thanks we have hands to deliver the grain.
Come join us in thanking the Lord for his blessing.
O let us be joyful, O let us be grateful to the Lord for His blessing.

The promise of ending in right understanding is peace in our own hearts and peace with our neighbor.

O let us sing our song, and let our song be heard.
Let's sing our song with our hearts, and find a promise in that song.
The promise of living,
The promise of growing,
The promise of ending is labor and sharing our loving.

Music: Aaron Copland (1900-1990), arr. Jonathan Darbourne
Words: Horace Everett (Erik Johns) (1779-1851)
In place of the SERMON

This evening we hear no sermon. But we can perhaps value the last paragraphs of a sermon preached by William Crashaw, Reader (Preacher) of the Temple at the Temple Church, in February 1609/10, in praise of the Virginia Colony:

A SERMON PREACHED IN LONDON before the right honourable the Lord LAVVARRE, Lord Gouernour and Captaine Generall of VIRGINEA, and others of his Maiesties Counsell for that Kingdome, and the rest of the Adventurers in that Plantation.

AT THE SAID LORD GENERALL HIS leave taking of ENGLAND his Native Countrey, and departure for VIRGINEA, FEBR. 21. 1609.

We have modernised the spelling, below.

‘And thou Virginia, whom though mine eyes see not, my heart shall love; how hath God honoured thee! Thou hast thy name from the worthiest Queen that ever the world had: thou hast thy matter from the greatest King on earth: and thou shalt now have thy form from one of the most glorious Nations under the Sun… But this is but a little portion of thy honour: for thy God is coming towards thee, and in the mean time sends to thee, and salutes thee with the best blessing heaven hath, even his blessed Gospel. Look up therefore, and lift up thy head, for thy redemption draweth nigh; and he that was the God of Israel, and is still the God of England, will shortly I doubt not bring it to pass, that men shall say, Blessed be the Lord God of Virginia; and let all Christian people say, Amen.

‘And this salutation doth my soul send thee, O Virginia, even this poor New Year’s Gift, who though I be not worthy to be thine Apostle, yet do vow and devote my self to be in England thy faithful factor and solicitor, and most desirous to do thee any service in the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour and thine: whom we beseech for his precious blood-shedding to advance his standard amongst you, and that you may once cry for you selves as we do now for you, Even so come Lord Jesus.’
All stand.

Hymn

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

*Glory!* *Glory!* *Hallelujah!* *Glory!* *Glory!* *Hallelujah!*
*Glory!* *Glory!* *Hallelujah!* *His truth is marching on.*

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the valley Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free;
While God is marching on.

*MUSIC:* William Steffe (c.1830-c.1890)
*WORDS:* Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910)

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and for ever. Amen.
National Anthems

Two anthems have a single tune: ‘God save the Queen’ and ‘My country, ’tis of thee’. In this evening’s celebration of our nations’ friendship, we invite the whole congregation to sing both of the following verses, one from each anthem.

God save our gracious Queen,        My country, ’tis of thee,
Long live our noble Queen,          Sweet land of liberty,
God save the Queen;                 Of thee I sing;
Send her victorious,                Land where my fathers died,
Happy and glorious,                 Land of the pilgrims’ pride,
Long to reign over us,              From ev’ry mountainside
God save the Queen.                Let freedom ring!

Organ Voluntary

1 July is Canada Day. To acknowledge our close friends in Canada and their own national celebration this week, we end this service with a voluntary by Sir Ernest Macmillan, widely regarded as being Canada’s pre-eminent musician from the 1920s through the 1950s.

Cortège académique        Ernest MacMillan (1893-1973)

Dedicated to University College, Toronto, on the occasion of its Hundredth Anniversary, 1953.

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Collection

This evening’s collection will be dedicated to the repair of the Great Norman Doorway and the re-beautification of its environs. It is of significant benefit to the Church if UK tax payers use the yellow gift-aid envelopes which you will find at the end of the pews.