

The Temple Church

Wednesday 4 November 2020

For National Pro Bono Week

CHORAL EVENSONG, 5.45 p.m.

To no one will we sell, to no one will we deny or delay right or justice.

– Magna Carta, 1215, Clause 40

Welcome to this Evensong to celebrate Pro Bono Week. We are grateful to the representatives of the Bar Council, Law Society and CILEX who have arranged the service and in particular to Michael Napier, CBE, QC for coming to give the address.

In 1214-15 Magna Carta was negotiated here in the Temple. For the fraught negotiations at Epiphany 1215 King John's regalia will have been on display on the Church's altar; he, like the Magi at the first Epiphany, brought gold to the greater King who had anointed him and who validated his power. If John hoped thereby to overawe the rebellious barons, he failed. It was here that the barons demanded, for the first time, an enforceable charter to limit the power of the executive. In 1219 the Charter's hero William Marshal was buried here, in the Round, where his effigy still lies. Next to it lies the effigy of the Marshal's eldest son, one of the twenty-five Surety Barons at Runnymede.

For all those who through the centuries have sought the ways of justice and of peace; all those who with courage and foresight have secured the increase of our liberties and advancement of our rights; and all those who in this our generation protect God's children from injustice; we give heartfelt thanks to God. **Amen.**

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.

This service is being live-streamed, and is accessible through the homepage of the Temple Church at www.templechurch.com. It will remain online for five days. If you would prefer not to be seen online kindly ask a steward to show you to a seat out of camera shot.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prelude in E flat

William Harris (1883-1973)

All stand at the entrance of the clergy.

INTROIT

Come Holy Ghost, eternal God,
Which dost from God proceed:
The Father first, and eke the Son,
One God as we do read.

Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)
Words: Matthew Parker (1504-1575)

HYMN

1.	2.
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To his feet thy tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Who like me his praise should sing? Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.	Angels, help us to adore him; Ye behold him face to face; Sun and moon, bow down before him, Dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Music: Sir John Goss (1800-1880)
Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

All remain standing.

BIDDING

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
— *Matthew 5.6*

Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

— *Amos 5.24*

O heavenly Father, at whose hand the weak shall take no wrong nor the mighty escape just judgment: Pour thy grace upon all the officers of our courts, that by their true, fruitful and diligent execution of justice and equity, thou mayest be glorified, the common wealth daily promoted and increased, and we all live in peace and quietness, godliness and virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— *Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, 1549*

We gather this evening in the presence of almighty God, who is the judge of all and who knows the secrets of our hearts, to give thanks for the rule of law with which our land is blessed. We give thanks for our own high calling to serve the Crown and all the people in the cause of justice; and for the integrity and support of those around us.

We give special thanks for all those who give freely of their time and skills in the service of others, who support the needy in times of their greatest need, who ensure that justice is done for those who cannot afford the costs of justice. We commit ourselves afresh to the service of the law and of our neighbours. We seek God's strength and guidance in all we do: may we remain true to the highest standards and to ourselves, and reflect in our tribunals on earth the heavenly justice and mercy of God.

May God sustain us in our duties, replenish us with his wisdom and inspire us with his love, unfailing and eternal, for all his children.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall receive mercy. – *Matthew 5.7*

Let us now acknowledge and confess before God our own manifold sins and wickedness, approaching with a pure heart and humble voice the throne of the heavenly grace:

All sit or kneel for the confession.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom of mercy and of justice, saying, as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on 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...."

THE RESPONSES

(Ayleward)

PSALM 84

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord:
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay
her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be alway praising thee.
Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee: in whose heart are thy ways.
Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well:
and the pools are filled with water.
They will go from strength to strength:
and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: hearken, O God of Jacob.
Behold, O God our defender: and look upon the face of thine Anointed.
For one day in thy courts: is better than a thousand.
I had rather be a door-keeper in the house my God:
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
For the Lord God is a light and defence:
the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from
them that live godly life.
O Lord God of hosts: blessed is the man that putteth his trust in 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

Zechariah 7. 8-10 and 8. 2-8

And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city

shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.

All stand.

MAGNIFICAT
(*Humfrey in F*)

All sit.

THE SECOND LESSON
James 2. 1-5, 8-9

My brethren, if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS
(*Humfrey in F*)

All remain standing and in the tradition of the Temple Church 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

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit.

ANTHEM

Exsultate, justī, in Domino;
rectos decet collaudatio.

Confitemini Domino in cithara;
in psalterio decem
chordarum psallite illi.

Cantate ei canticum novum;
bene psallite ei in vociferatione.

Exsultate, justī, in Domino;
rectos decet collaudatio.

*Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous;
for it becometh well the just to be thankful.*

*Praise the Lord with harp;
sing praises unto him with the lute,
and instrument of ten strings.*

*Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing praises
lustily unto him with a good courage.*

*Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous;
for it becometh well the just to be thankful.*

Music: Ludovico da Viadana (1560-1627)

Words: Psalm 33. 1-3

THE ADDRESS Michael Napier CBE QC

PRAYERS

All stand.

HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.

Music: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932)

Words: William Williams (1717-1791)

THE BLESSING

All are invited to sit after the departure of the Choir and Clergy for

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Festal March

W. Lloyd Webber (1914-1982)

If you would like to remain seated until the end of the organ voluntary please do otherwise would you kindly make your way to the exit being careful to remember social distancing guidelines. There will be a retiring collection.

It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly fill in the Gift Aid envelope enclosed in this Order of Service. Thank you!

NHS Test and Trace

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