

Westminster Abbey



A Service to Mark The Passing of The World War One Generation

Wednesday 11 November 2009
10.55 am

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the Armistice signed by Germany and the Allies in Marshal Foch's railway carriage in the Forest of Compiègne came into effect, bringing to an end the hostilities that had involved millions of people from countries across the world. The First World War had lasted four years, four months, and fourteen days.

More than one million men, women, and children, Service and civilian, from across the British Empire lost their lives. The War left an enduring impact on those who survived, and on the nation as a whole as the country struggled to come to terms with loss on such an unimaginable scale. They were determined that the sacrifices of the World War One generation would never be forgotten. In marking the passing of this remarkable generation today, and as the nation falls silent at 11.00 am, we honour that promise.

THE PADRE'S FLAG

The Union Flag hanging at this service over the Grave of the Unknown Warrior, sometimes called the Padre's flag, was flown daily on a flag post, used on an improvised altar, or as a covering for the fallen, on the Western Front during the First World War. It covered the coffin of the Unknown Warrior at his funeral on 11 November 1920. After resting for a year on the grave it was presented to the Abbey on Armistice Day 1921 by the Reverend David Railton, the Army chaplain who used it during the war. It was dedicated at the High Altar 'to the Glory of God and in perpetual memory of all who gave their lives fighting by land and sea and air for their King, for Great Britain and Ireland, and for the Dominions beyond the seas'. For many years the Union Flag hung in the Nave to the north of the Warrior, but in recent years, for reasons of conservation, it has hung nearby in St George's Chapel, to the south of the Warrior, where it remains on public view.

THE WREATH

The Wreath that will be laid on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior by Her Majesty The Queen was made at the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey, where disabled Service-related people work all year round to produce the poppies and wreaths for Remembrancetide. It is a replica of a wreath produced during the inter-war period.

The Wreath is escorted by seventeen-year-old Millie Scott and fifteen-year-old Victoria Newark, who in 2008 travelled to the World War One battlefields of France and Belgium as part of a project run by the Imperial War Museum assisting young people to learn more about the impact of World War One on the nation.

THE BELL FROM HMS VERDUN

Fixed to a pillar to the south of the Grave of the Unknown Warrior is the ship's bell from HMS *Verdun*. This 'V' class destroyer, built by Hawthorn Leslie in 1916, was the ship on which the body of the Unknown Warrior made its journey from Boulogne to Dover on 10 November 1920. In 1946, when HMS *Verdun* was broken up, its bell was acquired by Commander J D R Davies MBE RN, who had joined the ship as a sub-lieutenant in 1920. At a ceremony in Westminster Abbey on 9 November 1990 Commander Davies presented the bell to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. During this Service, six bells will sound from the ship's bell designating the eleventh hour.

Most of the church, with the exception of the North Transept, is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

Please ensure that mobile phones, cellular phones, and pagers are switched OFF.

The bells of the Abbey Church are rung half-muffled by the Westminster Abbey Company of Ringers in commemoration of all now departed who lived through the years of World War One.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the The Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist.

The Royal Artillery Band, which appears by kind permission of the Director, Royal Artillery, is directed by Major Tim Arnold, Director of Music.

Last Post and Reveille are played by a bugler from the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood.

Music before the service:

James McVinnie, Assistant Organist, plays:

Rhapsody III *Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*
composed during a Zeppelin raid on York, in March 1918

Absoute *René Vierne (1878-1916)*
Vierne was killed at the Battle of Verdun on 29 May 1916

Trauerode Op 145 no 1 *Max Reger (1873-1916)*
dedicated 'Dem Gedenken der im Krieg 1914–15 Gefallenen'
'to the memory of those fallen in the war of 1914-15'

The Royal Artillery Band plays:

Nocturne *from* A Moorside Suite *Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

Intermezzo on *My Bonny Boy* *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*
from English Folk Song Suite

Air on *Lascia Ch'io Pianga* *George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)*
from Rinaldo *arranged by Frank Winterbottom (1861-1930)*

Nimrod *from* Variations on an *Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*
Original Theme for orchestra Op 36 'Enigma' *arranged by Denis Wright (1895-1967)*

Chaconne *from* First Suite in E flat major for Military Band *Gustav Holst*

The Assistant Organist plays:

Chorale Prelude on 'St Mary' *Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)*

Lento *from* A London Symphony *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
arranged by Henry George Ley (1887-1962)

Robert Quinney, Sub-Organist, plays:

Prelude and Fugue in F minor Op 7 no 2 *Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)*

The Right Honourable Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster at the Great West Door and conducted to his place in Quire. All remain seated.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received and conducted to his place in Quire. All stand, and then sit.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester is received and conducted to her place in Quire. All stand, and then sit.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh are received. All stand.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain standing. The Choir sings

THE INTROIT

THEY shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.
We will remember them.

*Douglas Guest (1916-96)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1963-81*

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, says

THE BIDDING

EXACTLY ninety-one years ago, at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns fell silent. The Great War was over. Lives, friendships, families, societies, nations had been shattered. Everything had changed.

On this day two years later and at this hour, an Unknown Warrior, chosen at random to represent all those of these islands who had fought and died, accorded the highest honour of a state funeral, was buried here. His grave was to become the focus of our national remembrance and to have international significance.

Now that the last of his comrades in arms has gone to his eternal rest, we are here once more to remember. We remember, with grief, the gas and the mud, the barbed wire, the bombardment, the terror, the telegram; and, with gratitude, the courage and sacrifice. Never again, they said; the war to end all wars. With resolution we remember.

At 11.00 am there is kept

THE TWO MINUTES' SILENCE

The Dean says:

Let us pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in the words our Saviour gave us:

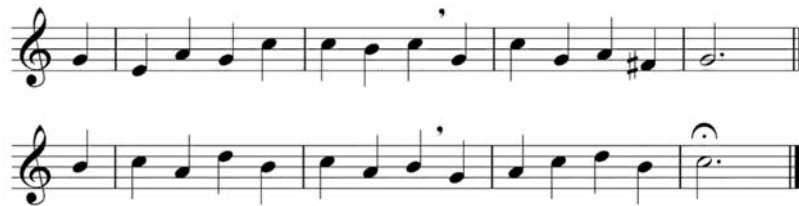
OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All remain standing as the Collegiate Procession, together with Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, moves to places in Quire and the Sacrarium.

All sing

THE HYMN

during which The Queen's Colour of Commander-in-Chief Fleet, the Union Flag, and The Queen's Colour for the Royal Air Force are borne through the Abbey, presented, and placed in the Sacrarium



O GOD, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

under 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.

*St Anne 417 NEH
probably by William Croft (1678-1727)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1708-27*

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

All sit. Anne Davidson, daughter of Chief Petty Officer William Stone RN, who died in January 2009, aged 108, a veteran of both World Wars, reads

GENESIS 4: 8-16

CAIN said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.' And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?' And the Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.' Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.' And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

All remain seated. The Choir sings

HIDE not thou thy face from us, O Lord: and cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure. For we confess our sins unto thee, and hide not our unrighteousness: for thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins.

Richard Farrant (c1530-80)

after Psalms 27: 10, 32: 6

Andrew Orr Ewing, son of Lieutenant Colonel David Orr Ewing MBE, the Black Watch, 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland, currently serving in Afghanistan, and great-great-grandson of Captain David Orr Ewing DSO RN, who served at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, reads

REVELATION 21: 1-6

THEN I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



BE still my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Finlandia
Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Katherina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel (1697-1752)
translated by Jane Borthwick (1813-97)

THE ADDRESS

by

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan

All remain seated. The Choir and Ian Bostridge, tenor, sing

AGNUS DEI

ONE ever hangs where shelled roads part.
In this war He too lost a limb,
But his disciples hide apart;
And now the Soldiers bear with Him.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest.

Near Golgotha strolls many a priest,
And in their faces there is pride
That they were flesh-marked by the Beast
By whom the gentle Christ's denied.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

The scribes on all the people shove
And bawl allegiance to the state,

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

But they who love the greater love
Lay down their life; they do not hate.

dona eis requiem sempiternam.
grant them rest eternal.

Dona nobis pacem.

*Benjamin Britten (1913-76)
from War Requiem*

Wilfred Edward Salter Owen MC (1893-1918)

All remain seated. Jeremy Irons, by the memorial to the World War One poets, reads

LAST POST

*I*N all my dreams, before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If poetry could tell it backwards, true, begin
that moment shrapnel scythed you to the stinking mud...
but you get up, amazed, watch bled bad blood
run upwards from the slime into its wounds;
see lines and lines of British boys rewind
back to their trenches, kiss the photographs from home –
mothers, sweethearts, sisters, younger brothers
not entering the story now to die and die and die.

Dulce – No – Decorum – No – Pro patria mori.

You walk away.

You walk away; drop your gun (fixed bayonet)

like all your mates do too –

Harry, Tommy, Wilfred, Edward, Bert –

and light a cigarette.

There's coffee in the square,

warm French bread

and all those thousands dead

are shaking dried mud from their hair

and queueing up for home. Freshly alive,

a lad plays *Tipperary* to the crowd, released

from History; the glistening, healthy horses fit for heroes, kings.

You lean against a wall,

your several million lives still possible

and crammed with love, work, children, talent, English beer, good food.

You see the poet tuck away his pocket-book and smile.

If poetry could truly tell it backwards,

then it would.

Carol Ann Duffy (b 1955)

Poet Laureate

THE PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

The Reverend Michael Macey, Minor Canon of Westminster, says:

RECALLING the service and sacrifice of the World War One generation, both those who went to war and those they left behind, let us pray to the Lord for our own generation: for all involved in warfare and all who seek peace.

All kneel or remain seated.

The Right Reverend William Hewitt, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, says:

For nations still torn by war or civil discord, where brotherhood is shattered, for their people and their leaders; that the causes of our human hatreds be made known, and that the desire for peace may overcome them;

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For those who suffer from the effects of war: for veterans, for families grieving the loss of loved ones, and for all whom war has left vulnerable, displaced, or without hope;

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

The Reverend Martin Spain, President of the Free Churches Council of Wales, says:

For those who serve the cause of peace and liberty among the troubled nations of the world; for the armed forces of the Crown and of our allied nations, and for all who continue to fight against injustice and oppression;

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For the young people of our present generation, and for all who will influence the future of this country, that they may gain wisdom from the World War One generation now passing: the children bereaved of their fathers, those who endured privation and hardship, those who fought for freedom in Europe, those who for our tomorrow gave their today;

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

The Reverend Michael Macey, Minor Canon of Westminster, says:

Let us give thanks to God for those who bought us our peace, for reconciliation of enemies, and for the liberties we now enjoy.

The Most Reverend Alan Harper, Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland and Metropolitan, says:

For the service and sacrifice of all who fought in World War One, from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and from nations throughout the world, and for all who laid down their lives; for their courage and their selflessness in the midst of so many and great dangers, and for the example they have given us; let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

For the freedom of belief and worship, of speech and expression, which they won for us; for freedom from tyranny and for all good things afforded by peace; let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, says:

For the establishment of peace with those nations which, once hostile through ambition and enmity, are now our allies, and for the opportunity to work together for the peace of the world; let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

For the flourishing of love where once there was hatred; for the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life; for the knowledge that in all things nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus; let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

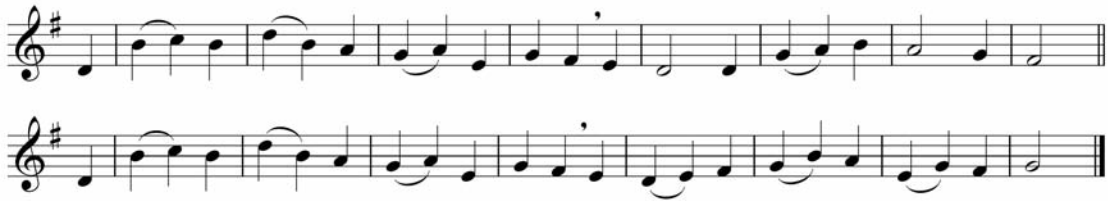
The Reverend Michael Macey, Minor Canon of Westminster, says:

ALmighty God, you have promised to restore all things in heaven and earth in that new city, the heavenly Jerusalem, where there shall be no more death, or mourning, or crying, or pain, and where love's purest joys are to be found: grant us, we beseech you, the courage and determination to strive here on earth for the values of that heavenly kingdom; through your Son, whose sacrifice upon the throne of the cross won for us the eternal victory, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

*during which the Colours are returned to their bearers
and the Collegiate Procession,
together with Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh,
Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, the Prime Minister,
the Chief of the Defence Staff, and the Chiefs of Staff of the Royal Navy, the Army, and the
Royal Air Force, moves to places by the Grave of the Unknown Warrior*



THE day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

*St Clement 252i NEH
Clement Scholefield (1839-1904)*

John Ellerton (1826-93)

THE WREATH LAYING

All remain standing. The Reverend Graeme Napier, Minor Canon of Westminster, reads

JOHN 15: 10-17

JESUS said: 'If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

All remain standing. The Dean says:

THIS year has seen the passing of the three remaining veterans of World War One living in the United Kingdom: William Stone in January, and Henry Allingham and Harry Patch in July. Their names we honour. Now we remember and honour, by the laying of this Wreath, all those of their generation who, together with the Unknown Warrior, served during the First World War, those whose names we know, and those whose names are known to God alone.

The Royal Artillery Band plays

Solemn Prelude 'For The Fallen'

*Edward Elgar
arranged by Anthony Williams (b 1973)*

The Wreath is borne through the Abbey to the Grave of the Unknown Warrior:

Wreath Bearers:

Trooper Mark Donaldson VC
Australian Army

Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry VC
*1st Battalion
Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment*

Escorts:

Victoria Newark

Millie Scott

Her Majesty The Queen lays the Wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior.

The Bell of HMS Verdun is rung by Leading Seaman David Hutchinson RN.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup GCB AFC ADC RAF, the Chief of Defence Staff, says:

THEY shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.

All: **We will remember them.**

LAST POST

REVEILLE

All remain standing. The Choir sings

THE PEACE THAT SURPASSETH UNDERSTANDING

Αλληλούια Alleluia

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Αλληλούια Alleluia

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come;

Αλληλούια Alleluia

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.

Αλληλούια Alleluia

*John Tavener (b 1944)
commissioned for this service*

Romans 8: 35-39

The Dean says:

CHRIST our King, risen victorious over sin and death; shed your peaceful light on all mankind, and quicken this world with the brightness of your dawning. By your holy and glorious wounds, free us from all blindness and bitterness of heart, from disease of mind or body, from doubt or despair; grant to all your children your loving-kindness and newness of life in your name; and perfect in us the image of your glory; that we may join our praises with the praises of heaven, where you live and reign, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

GO forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; 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 amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing to sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen.
Long live our noble Queen.

God save The Queen.

Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:

God save The Queen.

The Sub-Organist plays:

Chorale Fantasia on *O God our help*

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

The Band of the Royal Artillery plays:

Imperial March

Edward Elgar

Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in their places until directed to move by the Stewards.

The bells of the Abbey are rung by the Westminster Abbey Company of Ringers in a touch of Stedman Caters comprising 1111 changes.

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