

Westminster Abbey



A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of

MRS MARY CORNELIA DEE SKAGGS CBE



Thursday 8 July 2010
6.00 pm

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Sion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode:
On the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove:
Who can faint, while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if of Sion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name:
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Sion's children know.

*Austria 362 NEH
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)*

John Newton (1725–1807)

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster, gives

THE WELCOME

All sit. Patricia Jelley reads

LUKE 14: 7–11

When Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honour at a meal on the Sabbath, he told them a parable. ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

The Lay Vicars of Westminster Abbey sing

THE MOTET

A new commandment give I unto you, saith the Lord, that ye love together as I have loved you, that even so ye love one another. By this shall every man know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Thomas Tallis (c1505–85)

John 13: 34–35

All remain seated for

THE ADDRESS

by

The Very Reverend Colin Semper
Canon Emeritus of Westminster Abbey

All stand for

THE WREATHLAYING

The Wreath is laid by Philip Jelley

A short period of silence is kept.

The Dean leads

THE PRAYERS

We give thanks to God for the gift of knowing Mary: for the love she shared among us, for all that was good in her life, and for the memories we treasure today.

All praise be thine, almighty God, for the memories thou hast given us of those who have gone before us. Grant that in all our memories we may forever hold fast to that which is true and so honour the memory of thy faithful servant; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mary desired to see peace with reconciliation and justice in the world. So let us pray for the world.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, look mercifully, we beseech thee, upon the unrest of this world, and draw all people to thyself and to one another in the bonds of peace. Bless all who work for peace and reconciliation; and grant understanding to the nations, with an increase in sympathy and mutual good will; that they may be united in true brotherhood wherein are met justice and mercy, truth, and freedom; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mindful of Mary's generous but humble heart, we give thanks to God for her example and her philanthropic nature: for the commitment she and her husband, Justin, gave to the Skaggs Foundation, and we pray that we, like them, may seek to serve others and not ourselves.

O God our Father, who hast taught us never to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think: help us to attain to that greatness of Spirit that is ready for humble tasks, and ever to be servants of others because we are servants of thine; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Finally, let us commend Mary to the protection of almighty God.

God our creator and redeemer, by thy power Christ conquered death and entered into glory. Confident of his victory and claiming his promises we entrust to thy mercy this thy servant Mary and the souls of all who have died; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who died and is alive and reigns with thee, now and forever. **Amen.**

All these prayers we offer to the Father in the words our Saviour Christ has taught 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 to sing

THE HYMN

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendour through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
in this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide, and Stay,
thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever-sure defence;
thy true religion in our hearts increase,
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

*National hymn
George William Warren (1828–1902)*

Daniel Crane Roberts (1841–1907)

All remain standing. 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.**

The Service was sung by the Lay Vicars of Westminster Abbey.

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

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