

St Margaret's Church
Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE FOR THE NEW
PARLIAMENT

Tuesday 8 June 2010

11.00 am

The whole of the church 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 service is conducted by The Reverend Robert Wright, Rector of St Margaret's Church, and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

*Please join in singing the hymns and in saying the words printed in **bold type**.*

The service is sung by the Choir of St Margaret's Church, conducted by Aidan Oliver, Director of Music.

The organ is played by Richard Pearce.

Music before the service:

The Organist plays:

Fantasia

*Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1623–25*

Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 547

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

The Lord Speaker is received at the East Door by the Rector and escorted to her seat. All stand, and then sit.

The Speaker of the House of Commons is received at the East Door. All stand, and then sit.

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand to sing

THE 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 till I want no more.

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 of praises
I will ever give to thee.

*Cwm Rhondda 368 NEH
John Hughes (1873–1932)*

*William Williams (1717–91)
translated by Peter Williams (1727–96) and others*

All remain standing. Canon Wright says

THE BIDDING

At the start of this new parliament we come together to seek wisdom in our endeavours, forgiveness for our failings, and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. As we seek to serve the people of this country, we are conscious of the trust placed in us for the good of our whole nation. We are mindful of the responsibility we share to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. As we begin our work together we seek for ourselves, and for all our colleagues, integrity, courage, and hope for the future.

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the light of Christ's grace and strength, let us acknowledge our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his forgiveness.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful:

All **forgive us our sin.**

The almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

All sit. The Lord Speaker, The Right Honourable the Baroness Hayman, reads

NEHEMIAH 1: 5–11a

Nehemiah said, ‘O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses. Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, “If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place at which I have chosen to establish my name.” They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name.’

All remain seated. The Choir sings

PSALM 1

Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners: and hath not sat in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is in the law of the Lord: and in his law will he exercise himself day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the water-side: that will bring forth his fruit in due season.
His leaf also shall not wither: and look, whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper.
As for the ungodly, it is not so with them: but they are like the chaff, which the wind scattereth away from the face of the earth.
Therefore the ungodly shall not be able to stand in the judgement: neither the sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
But the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

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.

John Goss (1800–80)

*The Speaker of the House of Commons, The Right Honourable John Bercow MP,
reads*

MATTHEW 22: 16b–21

The Pharisees sent to Jesus and said: ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*Slane 239 NEH
traditional Irish melody*

Jan Struther (1901–53)

THE ADDRESS

by

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

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

God be merciful unto us, and bless us: and shew us the light of his countenance,
and be merciful unto us;

that thy way may be known upon earth: thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God: yea, let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad: for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and
govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God: let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase: and God, even our own God, shall
give us his blessing.

God shall bless us: and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

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.

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

Psalm 67

*All kneel or remain seated. The Reverend Michael Macey, Minor Canon of
Westminster, introduces*

THE PRAYERS

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

The Right Honourable Sir Alan Beith MP says:

For Her Majesty The Queen; for Her Government, and those in opposition; for the
leaders of the political parties; and for all who assist them in the discharge of their
duties: that they may strive for that which builds up our common life.

Lord in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

Tom Harris MP says:

For the Officers of the Palace of Westminster: for The Speaker and The Lord
Speaker; for Black Rod, the Sergeant at Arms, the Clerk of the House, and the Clerk
of the Parliaments: that they may enable the business of Government with
impartiality and fairness.

Lord in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

Commissioner John Matear, Territorial Commander, The Salvation Army, says:

For all staff who work within the Palace of Westminster in their several capacities, that together they may make it both an efficient and welcoming work-place; for the families of all associated with Parliament, that their lives might be enriched through their engagement with the life and business of government;

Lord, in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

The Reverend Dr Jonathan Oloyede, Senior Pastor, City Chapel, and Executive Administrator, Global Day of Prayer, says:

For all who have been elected to represent the people of this Nation in the House of Commons: for the gifts of integrity and tolerance and that they may always seek to promote the cause of that which is just and true;

Lord in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

A Member of the House of Lords says:

For all who sit in the House of Lords: for the Lords Spiritual, for all life peers and hereditary peers; that they may use their wisdom and experience for the benefit of this Nation;

Lord in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

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

For the Chaplain to The Speaker, and all Christians working in Parliament: for God's blessing on him, and on their several ministries, and that they may all be endued with the spirit of counsel and true godliness;

Lord in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

The Most Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales, says:

For the maintenance of Democratic values and principles: for the pursuit of justice, equality, and fairness for all; and for humility to imitate Christ and to be the servant of others;

Lord in your mercy;

hear our prayer.

The Right Honourable Sir George Young MP, Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal, says:

Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals; but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. **Amen.**

Parliamentary Prayer

The Minor Canon concludes:

All these our prayers and praises let us now present before our heavenly Father, in the prayer 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 stand to sing

THE HYMN

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife,
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

Maccabaeus 120 NEH

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité! Edmond Louis Budry (1854–1932)

translated by Richard Hoyle (1875–1939)

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

Music after the service:

Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel
herunter auf Erden BWV 650

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Westminster Abbey was built as part of a Benedictine monastery, and as a sacred place for the crowning and burial of the English kings and queens. Since it was never intended to serve the needs of the local community, in about 1150 a parish church was built by the monks of Westminster to be the parish church for the people of Westminster.

The church, immediately adjacent to the Abbey, was dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, a fourth-century saint whose colourful but apocryphal legend appealed to mediaeval piety. The present building, the third St Margaret's on this site, was begun about 1488 and consecrated on 9 April 1523. In the reign of Edward VI, Lord Protector Somerset wanted to pull down the church to provide stone for his great new palace on the Thames, Somerset House, but the citizens of Westminster turned out in force with bows, clubs, and staves, and sent the workmen packing!

St Margaret's has played a major part in the local history of Westminster for many centuries, and has associations with many historic figures: Geoffrey Chaucer, William Caxton, John Milton, and Samuel Pepys worshipped regularly in the Church; Sir Walter Raleigh's body was buried here after his execution in October 1618; and Sir Winston Churchill was married at St Margaret's in 1908.

On Palm Sunday, 17 April 1614, The Speaker of the House of Commons led Members of Parliament to St Margaret's for a corporate celebration of Holy Communion, thus beginning an association with St Margaret's and the House of Commons so that even today St Margaret's is popularly known as 'the parish church of the House of Commons'. The front pew on the right hand side is reserved for The Speaker. The House came to the church for a Thanksgiving Service at the end of the Second World War in 1945, and to mark the opening of the new Chamber of the Commons in 1950. Members of Parliament and the officers and staff of the Palace of Westminster often come to St Margaret's for weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and other occasions.

In recent years, the Parliamentary link has been further strengthened by the fact that the Rectors have acted as Speaker's Chaplain and one of the Wardens has been a Member of Parliament.

In 1972, because the resident population of the parish had shrunk to only a few hundred people, St Margaret's ceased to be a parish church and was merged with Westminster Abbey by Act of Parliament.

It is easy to overlook the size and magnificence of St Margaret's because of its close proximity to the Abbey, but it has, by any standards, a notable perpendicular interior, with majestic slender pillars, and fine tracery in the east and west windows. The church has undergone several extensive restorations, and has recently launched an Appeal for £2 million for necessary repairs to the roof, tower, and walls, and some modest improvements, including the provision of facilities for a Sunday School.

For details please contact: info@stmargaretsappeal.org