

# St Margaret's Church

Westminster Abbey



## A SERVICE FOR THE NEW PARLIAMENT

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

9.30 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 and other electronic devices are switched off.*

*The service is conducted by The Reverend Jane Sinclair, Canon of Westminster and Rector of St Margaret's Church, and The Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, 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:*

Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 547

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

Prelude Op 101

*Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)*

*The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received at the East Door and escorted to his seat. All stand, and then sit.*

*The Lord Speaker is received at the East Door and escorted to his seat. All stand, and then sit.*

*The Speaker of the House of Commons is received at the East Door and escorted to his seat. All stand, and then sit.*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All stand to sing*

## THE HYMN

**B**E thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,  
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
be thou my inheritance now and always,  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart,  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Slane 339 NEH*  
*traditional Irish melody*

*Irish, c 8<sup>th</sup> century, translated by Mary Byrne (1880–1931)*  
*and versified by Eleanor Hull (1860–1935)*

*All remain standing. The Reverend Jane Sinclair, Canon of Westminster and Rector of St Margaret's Church, gives*

## THE WELCOME AND BIDDING

**W**E have gathered today to seek God's blessing on the new Parliament: for God's wisdom to guide our work, for forgiveness for our failings, and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we may serve the common good. We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us as public servants, especially remembering the late Jo Cox MP and PC Keith Palmer who died in the cause of our freedom and democracy. We ask for ourselves, and for all our colleagues, integrity, courage, and hope for the future as we seek to serve all the people of the United Kingdom with justice, mercy, and humility.

Go before us, O 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.**

*The Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, introduces*

## THE CONFESSION

**I**N 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:  
**forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;  
Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;  
Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others;  
Lord, be merciful:  
**forgive us our sin.**

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

*All sit. The Right Honourable The Lord Fowler, Lord Speaker, reads*

#### THE FIRST READING

**H**AVE you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God’? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Isaiah 40: 21–end*

*All remain seated. The choir sings*

## THE PSALM

**G**OD is our hope and strength : a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved : and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.  
Though the waters thereof rage and swell : and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.  
The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God : the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.  
God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed : God shall help her, and that right early.  
The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved : but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.  
The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord : what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.  
He maketh wars to cease in all the world : he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.  
Be still then, and know that I am God : I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.  
The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
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.

*after Martin Luther (1483–1546)*

*Psalms 46*

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

## THE SECOND READING

**I**F then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Philippians 2: 1–11*

*All remain seated. The choir sings*

### THE ANTHEM

**I** WAS glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house of the Lord.  
For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord : to testify unto Israel, and  
to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.  
For there is the seat of judgement : even the seat of the house of David.  
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem : they shall prosper that love thee.  
Peace be within thy walls : and plenteousness within thy palaces.  
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.

*Henry Purcell (1659–95)*

*Psalm 122*

### THE ADDRESS

*by*

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby  
*Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan*

*All stand to sing*

### THE HYMN

**A**LL my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power,  
hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light, and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore  
from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth,  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand  
at his hand;  
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call  
one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

*Michael 333 NEH*  
*Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

*Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander (1650–80)*  
*translated by Robert Bridges (1844–1930)*

*The Reverend Jennifer Petersen, Minor Canon and Chaplain leads*

## THE PRAYERS

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

*All kneel or sit.*

**F**OR Her Majesty The Queen; for her Government and Loyal Opposition; for the leaders of the political parties; and for all who assist them in the discharge of their duties: that they may build up our common life, working together for the good of the whole nation. Mindful of their public service, we remember especially those Members of both Houses and parliamentary staff who have died since the last Parliament was formed.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Reverend Dr Martyn Atkins, Superintendent Minister, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, says:*

For the Principal Officers of the Palace of Westminster: for the Speaker and the Lord Speaker; for Black Rod, the Serjeant at Arms, the Clerk of the House, and the Clerk of the Parliaments; that they may enable the business of Government and serve diligently, without fear or favour.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all staff who work within the Palace of Westminster, and for their families: that their lives might be enriched through their engagement with the life and business of Government.

Lord, in your mercy;  
**hear our prayer.**

For all who have been elected Members of the House of Commons: that they may represent their constituents with integrity and impartiality, and promote justice and equity among all people.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



*The Reverend Padraig Regan CM, Chaplain, The Passage, 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 better governing of this nation.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and all Christians working in Parliament: that they may be endued with gifts of good counsel and true godliness, working faithfully for the coming of God's kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the strengthening of our national values of democracy and tolerance; for God's protection against violence and acts of terrorism; that all may live and work in peace and freedom, with mutual trust and confidence.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Speaker's Chaplain says:*

**L**ORD, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her Government, to Members of Parliament and to 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:

**O**UR 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

**P**RAISE to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
come ye who hear,  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:  
hast thou not seen  
all that is needful hath been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
ponder anew  
all the Almighty can do,  
he who with love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen  
sound from his people again:  
gladly for ay we adore him.

*Lobe den Herren 440 NEH*  
*Praxis pietatis melica 1668*

*Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren*  
*Joachim Neander (1650–80)*  
*translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)*

*All remain standing. The Speaker's Chaplain pronounces*

### THE BLESSING

**G**O 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:*

Carillon-Sortie

*Henri Mulet (1878–1967)*

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

## THE CHAPEL OF ST MARY UNDERCROFT

### *Holy Communion services*

The Chapel seeks to be a place of refuge, peace, and reflection amidst the busy nature of our working lives. Holy Communion services, led by the Speaker's Chaplain, are held in the Chapel, whilst the Houses are sitting, each Wednesday at 10.15 am and 12.45 pm. Each service lasts half an hour. Twice a month, at the 12.45 pm service, there is a Sung Eucharist with the Undercroft Choir.

There is a Roman Catholic Mass at 6.00 pm every Wednesday whilst the Houses are sitting, led by the Roman Catholic Duty Priest, Father Pat Browne. All are welcome.

One Wednesday per month (for Members and Peers only), there is a service of Holy Communion in St Margaret's Church at 7.45 am. This is followed by a light breakfast, including a speaker sharing on a chosen topic. We end at 9.00 am sharp.

### *Other services*

The Chapel also hosts services for other Christian groups in Parliament, including the Conservative Christian Fellowship, Christians on the left, the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum and the Cross Party group Christians in Parliament.

The Chapel of St Mary Undercroft is available for the following services at which The Speaker's Chaplain officiates:

- baptisms of Members or staff of both Houses with at least two years' service, and their direct descendants;
- weddings and services of blessing for Members or staff of both Houses with at least two years' service, and their direct descendants;
- memorial services to commemorate the death of Members or staff of both Houses (this privilege available when the deceased was a Member or member of staff at the time of death)

*The Chapel is a Royal Peculiar controlled by the Lord Great Chamberlain and under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Dean of Westminster. Before applying in writing, it is helpful to discuss the dates and confirm the availability of the Chapel with the Clerk to the Lord Great Chamberlain, Ms Nicola Rivis (rivisn@parliament.uk).*

## CHRISTIANS IN PARLIAMENT ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Christians in Parliament works to support Members and Staff of all parties in their work in the Houses of Parliament, through Tuesday services in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft (1.15–1.45 pm), lectures in The Speaker's House, Bible study, prayer groups, exploring Christianity courses and the annual National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. For further information, please visit [www.christiansinparliament.org.uk](http://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk) or email [claire.newman@parliament.uk](mailto:claire.newman@parliament.uk) or [james.lee@parliament.uk](mailto:james.lee@parliament.uk).

## 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 Abbey's monks 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<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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. 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. However, Members of both Houses, and the officers and staff of the Palace of Westminster, often come to St Margaret's for their weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and other occasions.