

SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

EUCCHARIST

TO CELEBRATE
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

AND TO COMMEMORATE
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN PRIESTS
IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024
11.00AM



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WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and video recording of the Choir is not permitted.

You are welcome to take photographs of the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs or videos during the service.

HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

POSTURE

The instructions in this booklet are not prescriptive. Please sit if that is more appropriate for you.

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PRESIDENT

The Rt Rev'd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

DEACON

**Canon Wendy Robins, Chancellor
and Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry & Continuing Minister Education**

SUBDEACON

The Rev'd Canon Esther Foss, Honorary Canon & Dean of Women's Ministry

PREACHER

The Ven Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate

EUCHARIST

TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MINISTRY
AND TO COMMEMORATE THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN PRIESTS IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

Please stand as the Procession enters.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

God of the women who answered your call,
Trusting your promises, giving their all,
Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth —
Give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women who walked Jesus' Way,
Giving their resources, learning to pray,
Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more —
May we give freely as they did before.

God of the women long put to the test,
Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
Quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" —
In Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

God of the women who ran from the tomb,
Prayed with the others in that upper room,
Then felt your Spirit on Pentecost Day —
May we so gladly proclaim you today.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
May we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
That we may share in your ministry here.

TUNE: SLANE (10.10.10.10.)

Traditional Irish melody

TEXT:

© The Rev'd Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (b. 1961)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

With the whole church
we affirm that we are made in God's image
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the Spirit.

With people everywhere
we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation
we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life
the unfolding purposes of God
forever at work in ourselves and the world.

The Iona Community

All May the God of liberating joy be with you,
and also with you.

The Bishop welcomes the congregation and introduces the celebration.

LIGHTING A CANDLE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Bishop leads the congregation in prayer as a candle of remembrance is lit.

God who loves and nurtures us,
protects and defends us,
frees us and calls us:
your love for us shines like a flame
which cannot be put out.

God of light,
we hold before you our foremothers:
all who have been ordained in this Cathedral since 1994:
and, in particular, those who are now at rest in the peace of Christ
and those who cannot be with us today.

Tender and compassionate God,
surround us all in your loving embrace
and hold us always in your care
that we may walk more faithfully with Jesus
and follow him, as Mary did,
to the foot of the cross
and onwards into the light of resurrection hope.

All **Amen.**

**based on prayers from Women and the Church
© Women and the Church**

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

God has called us to follow Christ,
and has formed us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
to declare the wonderful deeds of him
who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Let us confess the times when we have failed to heed this call.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:
'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.'
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful
but the labourers are few.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 6.1-10

Read by **The Rev'd Professor June Boyce-Tillman MBE**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' And he said,

Go and say to this people:
"Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand."
Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5.11-21

Read by **Dr Clare Dowding, Warden of Readers**

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

THE GRADUAL HYMN

She who would valiant be
 'gainst all disaster,
 let her in constancy
 follow the Master.

There's no discouragement
shall make her once relent
 her first avowed intent
 to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset her round
 with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound —
 her strength the more is.
No foes shall stay her might,
though she with giants fight;
she will make good her right
 to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
 us with Thy Spirit,
 we know we at the end
 shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
I'll fear not what they say,
I'll labour night and day
 to be a pilgrim.

TUNE: MONKS GATE

Adapted from an English folk song
by R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

TEXT:

Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)
after John Bunyan (1628-1688), altd.

THE GOSPEL

John 20.19-23

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Ven Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate

Please stand.

THE CREED

Let us declare our faith in God.

All **We believe in God the Father,**
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Please be seated.

A LITANY TO HONOUR WOMEN

This litany has been adapted from a litany by The Rev'd Liz Testa from Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals and used with permission.

Led by **Comfort Fearon, Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union**
Sally Barnes, Founder Member of WATCH
Wendy Stephens, Diocesan SPA

We walk in the company of the women who have gone before,
mothers and sisters of the faith, both named and unnamed,
testifying with ferocity and faith to the Spirit of Wisdom and Healing.

They are the judges, the prophets, the martyrs,
the warriors, poets, lovers and saints
who are near to us in the shadow of awareness, in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams.

We walk in the company of Deborah,
who judged the Israelites with authority and strength.

We walk in the company of Ruth,
whose steadfast love brought new life and new hope.

We walk in the company of you whose names have been lost and silenced,
who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.

We walk in the company of the woman with the flow of blood,
who audaciously sought her healing and release.

We walk in the company of Mary Magdalene,
who wept at the empty tomb until the risen Christ appeared.

We walk in the company of Phoebe,
who led an early church in the empire of Rome.

We walk in the company of Julian of Norwich,
who wed imagination and theology proclaiming "all shall be well."

We walk in the company of Isabella Gilmore, first Head Deaconess of The
Deaconess Institution for the Dioceses of Rochester and Southwark and
reviver of the Order of Parish Deaconesses.

We walk in the company of Mary Sumner,
founder of the Mothers' Union and tireless campaigner for social justice.

We walk in the company of Florence Li Tim-Oi,
the first woman to be ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Communion
eighty years ago.

We walk in the company of Rosamund Essex, the first woman to be licensed as a Reader in the Church of England.

We walk in the company of all those who were ordained priest thirty years ago and all who prepared the way for them.

We walk in the company of all Mothers and Sisters of the faith, who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom and strength, and to heal with compassion and love.

We walk in the company of one another.

Everyone is invited to place a symbol of their ministry into the offertory baskets which will be passed round. When all these symbols have been collected and offered, the Bishop says:

God's gifts and mercies have been lavished upon us with abundance. This day we celebrate all the faithful women who have used their gifts and shared God's mercies with us.

May we, inspired by God's grace renew our commitment to serve, to listen and to answer God's call: to live and work to his praise and glory.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand.

THE PEACE

Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace.

**All He breaks down the walls that divide us:
praise Christ who is our peace!**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

During the Hymn, bread and wine are presented at the Altar.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

We sing a love that sets all people free,
that blows like wind, that burns like scorching flame,
enfolds the earth, springs up like water clear:
come, living love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love that seeks another's good,
that longs to serve and not to count the cost,
a love that, yielding, finds itself made new:
come, caring love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid
to be itself, despite another's wrath,
a love that stands alone and undismayed:
come, strengthening love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love that, wandering, will not rest
until it finds its way, its home, its source,
through joy and sadness pressing on refreshed:
come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts today.

We sing the Holy Spirit, full of love,
who seeks out scars of ancient bitterness,
brings to our wounds the healing grace of Christ:
come, radiant love, live in our hearts today.

TUNE: WOODLANDS

Walter Grotorex
(1877-1949)

TEXT:

The Rev'd Professor June Boyce-Tillman MBE
(b. 1943)

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Blessèd are you, God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given
and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessèd be God for ever.

Blessèd are you, God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All Blessèd be God for ever.

Blessèd are you, God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have ourselves to offer,
fruit of the womb and formed by your love.
We will become your people for the world.

All Blessèd be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Holy, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere
to give you thanks and praise.

Today we honour all faithful women
who have offered their lives to Christ
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
What love you show us
as you recall humanity to its first innocence,
and invite us to taste on earth
the gifts of the world to come!

Now, with the saints and all the angels,
we praise you for ever:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessèd Virgin Mary,
Mary Magdalene, Elizabeth, and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

From the Dominican Sisters' Retreat, Great Bend, Kansas, 1993.

The prayer will be said by alternate sides. Please follow the direction of the Cantors.

Side 1

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.

Side 2

Our Mother
who art in all the earth,
holy is your truth,
may your wisdom come
your circle be one
uniting heaven and earth.
Give us today a nurturing spirit.
Heal through us
as we ourselves
are healed.
Lead us into fullness of life,
and liberate all that is good.
For the wisdom, the presence,
and goodness are yours.

Now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated. If you wish to receive Holy Communion or a blessing, please follow the directions of the Stewards. If you wish to receive from the chalice, please go to the point of administration after receiving the host. Please do not dip the host into the chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing, please bow your head.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Let us pray.

God of heaven and earth, you make us one in Christ.
We thank you for calling us to serve you in a variety of ministries.
We pray that you would continue to inspire us
with new vision and the wisdom of ancient dreams.
Give us strength to walk together
until we come to our eternal home.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE FINAL HYMN

Here and now we're bound together:
held in one divine embrace.
Help us see, in one another,
difference as a gift of grace.
As each passing generation
worships you in fresh new ways,
join our songs with all creation,
lift our voice to sing your praise.

Lord, affirm our shared vocation:
may we bring your plans to birth,
build your church on sure foundations,
fit to serve a troubled earth.
Growing, praying, sharing, learning,
deep in wisdom, broad in scope,
love-revealing, truth-discerning,
living out the gospel hope.

In your work of transformation
you are making all things new.
Stir our hearts' imagination,
call us now to work with you.
Send us out to share your mission;
show us each our part to play
as we live the Great Commission
joyful in the world today.

TUNE: BLAENWERN

William Rowlands (1860-1937)

TEXT:

© The Rev'd Ally Barrett (b. 1975) / Jubilate

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun

May the God of Sarah and Hagar, as of Abraham,
strengthen you go do his will;
may Jesus, born of the woman Mary,
encourage you in faithfulness;
and may the Holy Spirit,
who broods over us as a mother over her children,
sanctify you through the grace of baptism,
now and forever more.

All Amen.

The St Hilda Community

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.



Donations to the Li Tim-Oi Foundation are heartily encouraged.

Please follow the QR code to donate or visit:

<https://www.ltof.org.uk/donations/>

Please leave the Cathedral by the North West doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting the Cathedral by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you back.

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SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.

Southwark Cathedral
London Bridge
London
SE1 9DA

+44 (0)20 7367 6700
southwarkcathedral.org.uk