



A Civic Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
His Royal Highness The Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh



Friday 16th April 2021 at 6 pm





*A Message from
The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry
Councillor Ann Lucas OBE*



Today we give thanks for, and celebrate, an incredible lifetime of service and dedication.

For over seven decades, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was by our Queen's side, working for our country and its people.

Those duties included a visit to our city in 1956, when he accompanied the Queen as she laid the Foundation Stone for this beautiful Cathedral and toured the inspiring Ruins alongside.

Then, as ever, the people of Coventry turned out in force to show their love for the Royal visitors and to make them welcome, and I know so many are today feeling a sense of loss and will be sending their thoughts and prayers to the Queen and the Royal Family.

Away from his Royal duties, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh continued to think of others, and over the years served countless charities as a patron and supporter.

He is perhaps best known for founding and leading The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which set out to empower young people and give them the skills and confidence to have the best possible start in life.

True to his beliefs, volunteering was made a crucial element of the award, passing on his joy of helping others to the next generation.

Through that work he has left an incredible legacy and has helped to improve the lives of people across the world, including many here in our own city.

We are grateful and honoured to have had him as a part of our life.

Before the service begins, the Organ Scholar plays

Chorale Prelude on 'Eventide'

C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

Prelude on the hymn tune 'Rhosymedre'

R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Introduction

The Coventry Peace Bell is rung. The Peace Bell was presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany on November 14th 1990, the 50th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz.

Councillor John McNicholas, Deputy Lord Mayor, reads a message on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry, Councillor Ann Lucas OBE.

The Bidding

The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean, welcomes the congregation and says

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. *John 11.25, 26*

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, or anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8.38, 39*

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father, grace, mercy and peace be with you.

We meet this day to remember before God His Royal Highness Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our prayers and praises to the Father.

Then the Dean says

O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls: you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness, who walk in the shadow of death, so remember in your kingdom your faithful servant Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, that death may be for him the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

Psalm 121

The choir sings

1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills : from whence cometh my help.
2. My help cometh even from the Lord : who hath made heaven and earth.
3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved : and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
4. Behold, he that keepeth Israel : shall neither slumber nor sleep.
5. The Lord himself is thy keeper : the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand.
6. So that the sun shall not burn thee by day : neither the moon by night.
7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil : yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

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. Amen.

Music by J. Coward

The First Reading

Mrs Louise Bennett OBE DL, High Sheriff of the County of West Midlands, says

A reading from the Book of Lamentations.

²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
'therefore I will hope in him.'

²⁵The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

³¹For the Lord will not
reject for ever.

³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

Lamentations 3.22-26,31-33

At the end, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

The choir sings

God be in my head,
and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes,
and in my looking;

God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking;

God be in my heart,
and in my thinking;

God be at mine end,
and at my departing.

*Words from Horae Beatae Mariae Virginis, London (1514)
possibly of French origin
Music by H. Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

The Second Reading

Colonel George Marsh MBE TD DL, representing the Lord Lieutenant of West Midlands, Mr John Crabtree CBE, says

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

John 12.20-26

At the end, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The sermon is preached by The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry.

Nunc dimittis

The choir sings

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

From the Evening Service in D by George Dyson (1883-1964)

Prayers

The Reverend Canon Kathryn Fleming, Canon Pastor, says

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **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 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
And there shall no torment touch them.

All You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

All I will walk before the Lord
In the land of the living.

Canon Kathryn continues

O eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end: be pleased, most merciful Father, to receive into thy almighty and most gracious protection the soul of our brother Philip; and grant that, with him and all the faithful departed, we may at the last enter into the haven of thine unending joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

adapted from the Naval Prayer

Miss Bethany Haynes, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award holder and Bronze Level Leader, says

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, the members of the Royal Family, this Nation and all the Nations of the Commonwealth, that casting all our care on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Mr Osman Sheikh, Chair of Coventry Multi Faith Forum, says

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end.

All **Amen.**

after John Donne (1571–1631)

Commendation

The Bishop says

Into your hands, O Father and Lord, we commend your servant, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Enlighten him with your holy grace and suffer him never to be separated from you, O Lord in Trinity, God everlasting.

after St Edmund of Abingdon (1170–1240)

The choir sings the Kontakion for the Departed

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of man:
and we are mortal, formed from the dust of earth,
and unto earth shall we return.
For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying,
'Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.'
All we go down to the dust;
and weeping o'er the grave we make our song:
Alleluya, alleluya, alleluya.

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

*Orthodox Kontakion for the Departed
Melody from the Kiev tradition*

The Bishop says

Grant, Lord, that we may live in your fear,
die in your favour, rest in your peace,
rise in your power and reign in your glory;
for your own beloved Son's sake,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

William Laud (1573–1645)

Hymn

The choir sings

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia.

Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Alleluia.

On the third morn he rose again
glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain:
Alleluia.

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee:
Alleluia.

Words from 17th century Latin translated by F. Pott (1832-1909)
Tune CP 145 Gelobt sei Gott Melody from Vulpius' Gesangbuch 1609

The Blessing

The Bishop says

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The National Anthem

The choir sings

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 Voluntary

Solemn Melody

*H. Walford Davies (1869-1941)
arr. John E. West (1863-1929)*

Members of the Cathedral Choir are directed by Rachel Mahon, Director of Music. The organist is Harvey Stansfield, Organ Scholar.

