



The Chapel of the
Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Helen Margaret
Taylor Thompson, OBE

7th August 1924 – 6th September 2020

Friday 8th July 2022
11 am





Helen Margaret Taylor Thompson, MD (Hons), OBE

The Cathedral Consort is conducted by William Fox, Acting Organist and Assistant Director of Music. The organ is played during the service by Martin Ford, Acting Sub-Organist, and before the service by Tom Allery, Assistant Director of Music, Temple Church.

Music before the service

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|---|---|
| <i>Sketch in G</i> (Op. 11, No 3) | Edmund Chipp (1823-86) |
| <i>Voluntary in G</i> (Z. 720) | Henry Purcell (1659-95) |
| <i>Andante in F minor</i> | Elizabeth Stirling (1819-95) |
| <i>Ave Maria</i> | Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) & Charles Gounod (1818-93) |
| <i>Andantino from A Little Organ Book</i> | Harold Darke (1888-1976) |



As you prepare for worship, please be sensitive to the needs of those around you who may wish to pray quietly. Please switch off mobile telephones and do not use photographic, video or recording equipment at any time.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

The congregation is asked to join in all texts printed in bold.

Stand as the Choir and Ministers enter.

Welcome and Bidding

given by

The Reverend Canon James Milne,
Precentor, Canon in Residence

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning;
great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3. 22, 23

Dear friends, today we come together
to remember before God our sister Helen Margaret Taylor Thompson;
to give thanks for her life
and to comfort one another in our grief.

We recall with thanksgiving her outstanding contribution
to the work of the Mildmay Mission Hospital,
and in particular all she did as the co-founder and chair
of the first hospice in Europe for people living with AIDS.

As we bring to God our personal memories of Helen
and all she did to enable others to flourish,
may our constant prayer be that we too might use our gifts,
as she did, to bring light and hope to others,
after the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

All these our thoughts and prayers we offer
in the words that Jesus gave his disciples, saying;

**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.**

Hymn

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Burdened with a load of care?
Jesus is our only refuge:
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
You will find a solace there.**

Words: Joseph Scriven (1819-86), alt.

Tune: *What a friend*
Charles Converse (1832-1918)

Sit

Tribute

given by

Stephen Clarke

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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.

Chant: Charles Hylton Stewart (1884-1932)

Tribute

given by

The Reverend Prebendary Ronald Swan

Anthem

Be 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 and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art;
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Anon. Early Irish
trans. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
versified Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

Music: Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

Reading

read by

Sally MacGregor

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8. 28-39

Stand

Hymn

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

**O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.**

**In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.**

**To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where his glory forever I'll share.**

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

Words and music: *Old Rugged Cross*
George Bennard (1873-1958)

Sit

Reading

read by

The Canon in Residence

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

John 14. 1-21

Address

given by

The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Richard Chartres

Anthem

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour,
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

Words: Folliot Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Music: John Rutter (b.1945)

Prayers

led by

The Reverend Robert Kozak,
Succentor

Let us now pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

Sit or kneel.

The response

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

At the end

God of mercy,
entrusting into your hands all that you have made
and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people,
we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Stand

Hymn

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!'

Words: Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

Tune: Swedish folk melody
arr. Stuart K. Hine

The Conclusion and Blessing

given by

The Canon in Residence

Grant to us, Lord God,
to trust you not for ourselves alone,
but also for those whom we love
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;
that, as we believe your power to have raised
our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,
so may we trust your love to give eternal life to all
who believe in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Remain standing as the Choir and Ministers depart.

Organ Voluntary

Fugue in E flat 'St Anne' (BWV 552ii)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Helen Margaret Taylor Thompson MD (Hons), OBE

In its obituary of Helen, The Times newspaper described Helen as a witty and determined community activist who served in the wartime *First Aid Nursing Yeomanry* and later co-founded Europe's first Aids hospital – all of which is true – but she was so much more. Helen's early life was marked by tragedy as her mother died soon after she was born and her father died when she was 9 years old.

Helen joined Churchill's secret army – *the Special Operations Executive* – when she was only 18 and the work she did then was a launch pad for her business and charitable activities throughout her life. Helen ran the family laundry business and created a successful property development business before focussing on charity work later in life. She saved London's Mildmay Mission Hospital from closure in the 1980s by securing a lease on a peppercorn rent to care for patients suffering from the newly-identified disease: AIDS. Helen then, with the help of others, promptly turned it into the first hospital in Europe for People with AIDS. For this, she was awarded the MBE. That project in turn spawned other AIDS support initiatives in several African countries.

Helen co-founded *The Community Action Network* which serves the needs of other charities and, in 1999 at the age of 75, she woke up in the night with a vision to educate the world's poorest people about AIDS using modern technology and founded *The Starfish Initiative*, now known as *Education Saves Lives*. Helen also served on various boards and committees, including regional health boards and the governing body of St. Peter and St James Hospice. Though she was recognised for her services to charity by being elevated to OBE, Helen always maintained a discreet reluctance to claim any credit and was puzzled that anybody should be interested in her life and activities. Through these activities, countless thousands of lives have been changed and saved although almost none will have ever heard Helen's name.

Helen was married to Derek Taylor Thompson for almost 60 years and they had two daughters, Catherine, who died in New York in 2008, and Bopha. She also leaves behind four grandchildren, Tara, Evan, Ethan and Ena and two great-grandchildren, Adela and Rowan.

Retiring Collection

"We madly love this big mirror with moving and speaking people. The person who imagined to put these people in this mirror is great. Many people are changing after they have watched these things".

These are the words of a community leader in the Democratic Republic of Congo, after watching a health education DVD. The person who imagined it all was, of course, Helen. Her legacy includes real, impactful change for some of the world's most vulnerable communities. Today's collection will help Education Saves Lives provide lessons about HIV, Malaria and human trafficking and more; and will see more lives changed. Please use the gift aid envelopes provided, if you can.

Alternatively, you can donate in Helen's memory online:

donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/remembering-helen-taylor-thompson

Or Text HELEN followed by your donation amount to 70480 to give that amount (eg HELEN10). Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.



The Chapel of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire St Paul's Cathedral



There have been churches and religious buildings on this site since Roman times, the first cathedral dedicated to St Paul being consecrated in 604 by Mellitus, Bishop of the East Saxons.

The building of 'Old St Paul's' – the fourth cathedral – was begun on an enormous scale in 1087 and not completed until 1300. During an extension of this building eastwards, it was agreed that an adjacent parish church would be knocked down on condition that a chapel in the crypt of the cathedral could be used by the parish as their church: the Chapel of St Faith under St Paul's. The new cathedral built by Christopher Wren was completed in 1710 with a new Chapel of St Faith, which since 1960 has also been designated as the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire.

The Order of the British Empire was instituted by King George V in 1917 initially to recognise the considerable civilian contribution to the war effort during the 1914-18 war. It was a pioneering honour in its day, being the first five-class Order for national distribution and the first to admit women to membership. It has become the nation's most well-recognised honour.

Today all members of the Order and those who have been awarded the British Empire Medal, together with their children, are accorded the privilege of being married in the Chapel. Their children and grandchildren may also be baptised in the Chapel.