



A Service of  
Thanksgiving and Commitment  
on  
Battle of Britain Sunday



**Sunday 19 September 2021, 10.30 am**

The City Church of Oxford,  
St Michael at the North Gate

## WELCOME

**W**ELCOME to the City Church of St Michael at the North Gate. During this service of Sung Matins, we will be remembering those who fought so valiantly for freedom and liberty during the Second World War, and in particular all those involved in the Battle of Britain which was to prove a crucial turning point in the conflict. At the end of this service booklet there are further historical details. We meet in the presence of God, mindful of our continued need for his unfailing compassion and hope. Please join in with the words in bold.

*The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.*

*The service is led by the Revd Anthony Buckley*

*The service is sung by the Choir of St Michael at the North Gate, conducted by Tom Hammond-Davies, Director of Music.*

*The organ is played by Dónal McCann.*

*We stand for the Processional Hymn*

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise,  
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow thee,  
Rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!  
Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of thy peace,  
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm,  
O still, small voice of calm.

**D**EARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*We kneel or sit*

**A**LMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

**A**LMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**O**UR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.

O Lord, open thou our lips:  
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise

O God, make speed to save us:  
O Lord, make haste to help us

*We stand*

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

Praise ye the Lord:  
The Lord's Name be praised

VENITE, EXULTEMUS DOMINO

Psalm 95.

**O**COME, let us ' sing unto the ' Lord : let us heartily rejoice in the ' strength of ' our sal'vation.

Let us come before his ' presence with ' thanksgiving : and shew ourselves ' glad in ' him with ' psalms.

For the Lord is a ' great ' God : and a great ' King above ' all ' gods.

In his hand are all the ' corners of the ' earth : and the strength of the ' hills is ' his ' also.

The sea is his and ' he ' made it : and his hands pre'pared the ' dry ' land.

O come let us worship and ' fall ' down : and kneel be ' fore the ' Lord our ' Maker.

For he is the ' Lord our ' God : and we are the people of his pasture, and  
the ' sheep of ' his hand.

Today if ye will hear his voice, harden ' not your ' hearts : as in the  
provocation, and as in the day of temp'tation ' in the ' wilderness;  
When your ' fathers ' tempted ' me : ' proved me, and ' saw my ' works.  
Forty years long was I grieved with this gener'ation, and ' said : It is a  
people that do err in their hearts, for they ' have not ' known my '  
ways;

Unto whom I ' sware in my ' wrath : that they should not ' enter ' into my  
' rest.

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.

*We remain standing to sing this version of Psalm 46*

**G**OD is our strength and refuge,  
Our present help in trouble;  
and we therefore will not fear,  
though the earth should change!  
Though mountains shake and tremble,  
Though swirling floods are raging,  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

There is a flowing river,  
within God's holy city;  
God is in the midst of her  
She shall not be moved!  
God's help is swiftly given,  
thrones vanish at his presence  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Come, see the works of our maker,  
Learn of His deed all powerful  
Wars will cease across the world  
when he shatters the spear!  
Be still and know your creator,  
Uplift Him in the nations -  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

*We sit for the first lesson, from Ephesians chapter 3, read by The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Councillor Mark Lygo*

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

*We remain seated as the choir sings the Te Deum, an ancient hymn of praise.*

WE praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee : the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud : the heavens, and all the powers therein.  
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin : continually do cry,  
Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty : of thy glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles : praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets : praise thee.  
The noble army of Martyrs : praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge thee;  
The Father : of an infinite Majesty;  
Thine honourable, true : and only Son;  
Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory : O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man : thou didst not abhor the  
Virgin's womb.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death : thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God : in the glory of the Father.

We believe that thou shalt come : to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants : whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy Saints : in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people : and bless thine heritage.

Govern them : and lift them up for ever.

Day by day : we magnify thee;

And we worship thy Name : ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us : as our trust is in thee.

O Lord, in thee have I trusted : let me never be confounded.

*Stanford in B flat*

*The second lesson, from Mark chapter 10, is read by a member of 150 (City of Oxford) Squadron*

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. 'Teacher,' they said, 'we want you to do for us whatever we ask.'

'What do you want me to do for you?' he asked.

They replied, 'Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.'

'You don't know what you are asking,' Jesus said. 'Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?'

'We can,' they answered.

Jesus said to them, 'You will drink the cup I drink and be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.'

When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

*We remain seated as the choir sings the Jubilate Deo*

**O**BE joyful in the Lord, all ye lands : serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God : it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise : be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting : and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

*Stanford in B flat*

*We stand to say The Apostles' Creed*

**I**BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
Let us pray.

*We sit or kneel.*

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

**O**UR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us:  
**And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen:  
**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness:  
**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people:  
**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord:  
**Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us:  
**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**O**LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen..

## THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

**O** GOD, who are the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear that power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE COLLECT FOR GRACE

**O** LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE ANTHEM

**B**UT those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; They will rise, they will soar, they will fly up on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary; March on and not feel faint.

*They will rise*

*Isaiah 40: 31*

*Jonathan Dove (b. 1959). composed for the Service to mark the Centenary of the Royal Air Force, held at Westminster Abbey on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018.*

## THE SERMON

*The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey,*

***We remember Rachelle Bartlett, a former Cadet Sergeant, who died in 2020. A tribute will be read.***

THE INTERCESSIONS  
*The Rev'd Anthony Buckley*

THE ACT OF DEDICATION AND REMEMBRANCE  
*Members of 150 (City of Oxford) Squadron*

**I**N friendship and in service one to another, we are pledged to keep alive the memory of those of all Nations who died in the Royal Air Force and in the Air Forces of the Commonwealth. In their name we give ourselves to this noble cause. Proudly and thankfully we will remember them.

**W**E remember before God and commend to his sure keeping those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; those who have lived and died in the service of others. We remember in particular those in the RAF who gave their lives, and who died in the Battle of Britain.

THE EXHORTATION

**T**HEY shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.  
**We will remember them.**

THE KOHIMA DECLARATION

**W**hen you go home, tell them of us and say, 'For your tomorrow we gave our today.'

THE ACT OF COMMITMENT  
*The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey*

**L**ET us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage, and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

<b>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.</b>	<b>Thy choicest gifts in store on her be pleased to pour, long may she reign. May she defend our laws, and ever give us cause to sing with heart and voice, God save the Queen.</b>
--	---

National Anthem, *Thesaurus Musicus*, c. 1743

## THE BLESSING

**T**HE Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## HISTORICAL NOTE

BATTLE OF BRITAIN SUNDAY commemorates a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War.

Hitler's objective was to eliminate the Royal Air Force, both in the air and on the ground, in order to obtain air superiority in preparation for a seaborne and airborne invasion. Operating from airfields in France and Belgium, the Luftwaffe began their first heavy onslaught early in July 1940, directed against British shipping and the Channel ports. The intent behind this first phase of the battle was to draw the Royal Air Force into combat and wear down its strength. The second phase, from 8 to 18 August, consisted of intensive day operations against coastal radar stations and fighter airfields. The third phase began after a five-day lull due to poor weather, with increased night attacks and attacks on fighter airfields in the London area.

The first daylight assault on London was made on 7 September and marked the beginning of the fourth phase, lasting most of that month, during which the capital became the Luftwaffe's primary target. These attacks, although serious in themselves, brought vital relief to the fighter airfields, which until that time had been under considerable pressure. The Battle reached a climax on 15 September, when the Luftwaffe flew more than 1,000 sorties over England during daylight hours. On that occasion the Luftwaffe lost 56 aircraft. It was, in Sir Winston Churchill's words: 'One of the decisive battles of the war.' Churchill said:

'The gratitude of every home in our Island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world...goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of world war by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

Throughout October, the fifth and final phase of the Battle saw the decline of enemy daylight attacks on London and an increase in the night bombing of Britain's major ports and industrial centres. At the beginning of the struggle the Luftwaffe had approximately 2,700 aircraft to launch against England. Britain had fewer than 60 fighter squadrons—around 700 aircraft—and the groundcrew had to work sometimes 16 hours a day to keep aircraft in the air. Between 24 August and 6 September alone, Fighter Command lost 103 pilots and 128 were seriously wounded; 366 fighters had been destroyed or badly damaged. Fighter Command lost over 1,000 fighter aircraft during the Battle and the Luftwaffe nearly 1,900. Through

the efforts of fewer than 3,000 aircrew and all the men and women who supported them the Nazi war machine suffered its first significant strategic defeat. In all, 544 aircrew from Fighter Command were killed during the Battle, and a further 791 died before the end of the War.

At the end of the Battle, with the home base now secure, the Royal Air Force could turn to wider tasks: including the long fight for Malta, North Africa, and control of the Mediterranean; the mounting bomber offensive against Germany; the struggle for air supremacy over North-West Europe—without which the Normandy Invasion would have been impossible; and support of the invasion campaign itself. Without these essential contributions, victory in Europe would not have been possible. The Royal Air Force also played a vital role in the Far East, most memorably in the appalling conditions of the Burma campaign. Nor should we forget the unstinting efforts of our maritime airmen, who doggedly quartered the hostile seas for enemy U-boats, shipping and surface raiders. In commemorating the airmen who fought in the Battle of Britain, we pay tribute also to those who in the later years of the war served in all the Allied Forces at sea, on land, and in the air.

Today we record our continuing sense of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war, and we rededicate ourselves to strive untiringly for peace, justice, and freedom in the world. We also remember the tireless efforts of RAF servicemen and women who, over the past 100 years, have served in nearly every part of the globe as far eastwards as Hong Kong, Borneo, and Malaya; westwards to Belize; or southwards to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. We also acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and sacrifices of the men and women of the Royal Air Force still serving in the troubled regions of the World.



Copyright © The Book of Common Prayer, Oxford University Press 1969  
We gratefully acknowledge permission through Christian Copyright Licensing (License No. 1262444) to  
print any words and/or music. Designed and printed at St Michael at the North Gate. All Rights  
reserved.

St Michael at the North Gate, City Church of Oxford  
Cornmarket, Oxford, OX1 3EY 01865 240 940  
[www.smng.org.uk](http://www.smng.org.uk)