

1953



AN ORDER OF
Public Worship
FOR USE ON
Sunday 31st May
BEING THE SUNDAY
PRECEDING
THE CORONATION
OF HER MAJESTY
Queen Elizabeth II



ISSUED BY
THE FREE CHURCH FEDERAL COUNCIL
FOR THE USE OF THE FREE CHURCHES

And the Minister shall continue :

O GOD, who hast given Thy law to guide us, Thy strength to sustain us, and Thy love to surround us : help us so to obey Thee, to trust Thee, and to love Thee, that we may always be well-pleasing in Thy sight, and ever labour for the good of Thy Church and people, and for the glory of Thy name ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

After a period of silent prayer, all shall join in the Lord's Prayer, the Minister first saying :

And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we pray,

OUR 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.*

The following Hymn shall be sung :

NOW THANK we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices ;
Who from our mother's arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.
O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us ;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.
All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven.
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore ;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

After which, the Minister shall pronounce

THE BENEDICTION

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The Congregation being assembled, these verses of the National Anthem shall be sung, all standing :

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 !

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 !

Then, while all remain standing, the Minister shall read the following sentences from Holy Scripture :

BLESSED is the nation whose God is the Lord.
The Lord hath been mindful of us : He will bless us.
Offer unto God thanksgiving ; and pay thy vows unto the most High.
O give thanks unto the Lord ; for He is good : for His mercy endureth for ever.

Then shall be sung :

PSALM C

ALL PEOPLE that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice ;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell ;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed ;
Without our aid He did us make ;
We are His folk, he doth us feed ;
And for his sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto ;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure ;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Here shall follow Prayers of Adoration, of Confession, and of Supplication, the Minister saying :

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who dost rule Thy people in wisdom and love : we come before Thee with the praises of our lips and the adoration of our hearts. Thy mercy endureth for ever ; Thy glory is

revealed to us in Christ ; and in Thy will is our peace. Therefore we give thanks to Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit : to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

MOST HOLY and merciful Father ; we confess our sinfulness, and seek Thy pardon. We have not loved Thee with all our heart, neither have we loved our neighbour as ourselves. We acknowledge before Thee our national sins and shortcomings, and our own unworthiness. Forgive us our pride, our self-will, and our forgetfulness of Thee. Turn us again to Thyself ; have mercy upon us ; and cleanse us from our sins, for the sake of Thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O GOD, who hast preserved us by Thy mercy unto this day, and richly blessed us with Thy truth : enable us whom Thou hast united under one Sovereign to fulfil, in brotherhood and concord, Thy purpose for us in the world. Receive, we beseech Thee, our supplications and prayers ; and grant that, under Thy protection and guidance, we may evermore live as Thy people, and know Thee to be our God ; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Then shall be read a Lesson from the Old Testament :

I Kings iii, 5-14, or Joshua xxiv, 14-24, or Deuteronomy vi, 1-9

Here shall be sung :

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS

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.

Then shall be read a Lesson from the New Testament :

St. Matthew v, 1-16, or Romans xii

(Here may follow an Address to the Children.)

Then shall be sung the following Hymn :

LORD, while for all mankind we pray,
Of every clime and coast,
O hear us for our native land,
The land we love the most.
Our fathers' sepulchres are here,
And here our kindred dwell,
Our children too : how should we love
Another land so well ?
O guard our shores from every foe ;
With peace our borders bless ;
With prosperous times our cities crown,
Our fields with plenteousness.
Unite us in the sacred love
Of knowledge, truth and Thee ;
And let our hills and valleys shout
The songs of liberty.
Lord of the nations, thus to Thee
Our country we commend ;
Be Thou her refuge and her trust,
Her everlasting Friend.

These Prayers of Intercession follow, the People joining in the response :

And let our cry come unto Thee.

The Minister shall say :

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY LORD GOD, whose kingdom is everlasting, whose power infinite ; and who hast taught us to make intercession for all men : hear the prayers of Thy people, who come before Thee in the name of Jesus Christ.

SEND down Thy grace, we beseech Thee, upon Thy servant, our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen ELIZABETH, granting her in this day of beginnings a vision of Thine eternal purpose. Bestow upon her such gifts as she needs for Thy service ; preserve her in the faith and love of Thy name ; and grant that she may reign over us in honour, and in the affection of her peoples. Enable her so to bear the burden of an earthly crown and to do Thy will, that hereafter she may receive the crown of life, which Thou hast promised to them that love Thee.

Lord, hear our prayer ;
And let our cry come unto Thee.

WE HUMBLY beseech Thee, O most merciful Father, to give to Thy servant Philip Duke of Edinburgh wisdom and grace to comfort and support Her Majesty the Queen as she fulfils her high calling. Spare them to one another and to us in health and strength through many years. Let Thy blessing so rest upon Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Queen Mary, Charles Duke of Cornwall, and all the members of the Royal Family, that they may continue to set before us an example of Christian living and lead us in Thy way.

Lord, hear our prayer ;
And let our cry come unto Thee.

OUR LORD GOD, who rulest in the kingdoms of men : we pray for our country, and for all the peoples over whom Thou hast set ELIZABETH our Queen to be Head of the Commonwealth. We remember before Thee the Ministers of the Crown and the High Court of Parliament, beseeching Thee to grant that all who exercise the responsibility of government and leadership may have wisdom and right judgment. Prosper the work of Thy Church among us ; purge us of all sin and corruption ; and deepen our life in that righteousness which exalteth a nation.

Lord, hear our prayer ;
And let our cry come unto Thee.

GOD OUR FATHER, who hast revealed Thy will and purpose for mankind in Him who is the Prince of Peace : deliver this world, we beseech Thee, from all that leads to war ; increase the spirit of understanding and sympathy between those who are of different race and customs ; and grant that all nations may enjoy the blessings of justice, liberty, and peace.

Lord, hear our prayer ;
And let our cry come unto Thee.

THOU who didst give Thy Son Jesus Christ to share the life of an earthly home ; let Thy blessing rest upon the homes of our people. Keep us in Christian ways, and preserve to us the sanctities of family life. Give wisdom to all parents to teach and train their children in obedience to Thy Word ; and grant that the youth of our nation may grow up to do Thee true and faithful service in the days to come.

Lord, hear our prayer ;
And let our cry come unto Thee.

MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, hear us for those who suffer in body or in mind : the sick, the needy, the anxious, the dying, and the bereaved, that they may have courage in affliction, comfort in sorrow, and deliverance from their distress.

Lord, hear our prayer ;
And let our cry come unto Thee.

O ETERNAL LORD GOD, who hast given Thy Son Jesus Christ to be the resurrection and the life of all who believe in Him : grant to Thy Church in heaven and on earth a living and abiding faith in Thee. Receive our thanksgiving for all with whom we are one in the communion of saints ; and bring us all at last to the eternal joys of Thy heavenly kingdom ; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who ever liveth and reigneth with Thee, the Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Here shall follow such Notices as may be necessary ; after which the Offerings are to be received and dedicated.

Either of the following Hymns shall then be sung :

THY HAND, O GOD, has guided
Thy flock from age to age ;
The wondrous tale is written,
Full clear, on every page ;
Our fathers owned Thy goodness,
And we their deeds record ;
And both of this bear witness,
One Church, One Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
To greatest, as to least ;
They bade men rise, and hasten
To share the great King's feast ;
And this was all their teaching,
In every deed and word,
To all alike proclaiming
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
Through many a scene of strife,
The faithful few fought bravely
To guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
Sin pardoned, man restored,
Was all in this enfolded,
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
Nor leave Thy work undone ;
With thy right hand to help us,
The victory shall be won ;
And then, by men and angels,
Thy name shall be adored,
And this shall be their anthem,
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

or

REJOICE, O land, in God thy might ;
His will obey, Him serve aright ;
For thee the saints uplift their voice :
Fear not, O land, in God rejoice.

Glad shalt thou be, with blessing crowned,
With joy and peace thou shalt abound ;
Yea, love with thee shall make his home,
Until thou see God's kingdom come.

He shall forgive thy sins untold :
Remember thou His love of old ;
Walk in His way, His word adore,
And keep His truth for evermore.

(From the Yattendon Hymnal, by permission of the Clarendon Press, Oxford.)

Then the Sermon shall be preached.

After the Sermon, the Minister shall say :

Let us pray.

And then Minister and People shall say together the General Thanksgiving :

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercies, we Thine unworthy servants do give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life ; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives ; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days ; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

And the Minister shall continue :

O GOD, who hast given Thy law to guide us, Thy strength to sustain us, and Thy love to surround us : help us so to obey Thee, to trust Thee, and to love Thee, that we may always be well-pleasing in Thy sight, and ever labour for the good of Thy Church and people, and for the glory of Thy name ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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And keep us in His grace,
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And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

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The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven.
The one eternal God,
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