



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

**A Service of Thanksgiving  
for  
His late Royal Highness  
The Duke of Edinburgh**

in the presence of  
The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire  
The High Sheriff of Cheshire  
The Lord Mayor of Chester and Mayors in Cheshire

Sunday 11th April at 3.30pm



# WELCOME

We welcome you to this beautiful church in the heart of the city; this cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Chester and the core of a Christian community that has worshipped and worked here for over 1100 years. It is a place where the mission of the church to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

During the service the congregation are invited to pray the words in **Bold Type**; indications of where the congregation should stand, sit or kneel are given in red and for guidance only. An induction loop system is in operation: hearing aids should be switched to the 'T' position. Please ensure that all mobile telephones and devices are silenced before the service begins.

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

All of us gather at this time of national mourning to give thanks for the life of His Late Royal Highness, Prince Philip and for his service as Consort to Her Majesty the Queen. The Cathedral welcomes the Lord Lieutenant, Lieutenants, High Sheriff, Mayors from across Cheshire and other dignitaries here with us to mark this sad occasion.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **BEFORE THIS SERVICE**

*Before the service, the congregation is invited to pray for the Royal Family,*

*The Cathedral tenor bell will be tolled from 2.30pm.*

*All stand as*

*The Lord Mayor of Chester, The High Sheriff of Cheshire and The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire are conducted to their seats.*

*All then sit.*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*As a bell is sounded, all then stand and sing*

## HYMN

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven  
who like me his praise should sing!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King!**
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our forebears in distress;  
praise him still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness!**
- 3 Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely yet his mercy flows!**
- 4 Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!**

*Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)*

PRAISE MY SOUL  
*John Goss (1800-80)*

*All remain standing*

## **WELCOME**

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford,  
Dean of Chester.

Dear Friends in Christ, we are gathered here today in love and sadness as we come to give thanks for the life of His Late Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and to pray for his soul. We place before God his outstanding service to this Nation, the Commonwealth and to the Church. In this service, then, let us offer thanks to our heavenly Father his example of duty and commitment, his leadership and wisdom and his faithfulness and loyalty to God which we have witnessed through his life. We also pray especially for Her Majesty the Queen and all of the Royal Family in their mourning.

Let us 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 Dean continues*

Father in heaven,  
we give you thanks for your servant Prince Philip,  
We praise you as we remember his long life and cherish his memory.  
We offer our gratitude for all he brought to our Commonwealth and Nation  
and for all whose lives he touched.  
For we have seen in his devoted service, reflections of your compassion;  
in his integrity demonstrations of your goodness;  
in his faithfulness, glimpses of your eternal love.  
Give us grace to follow his good example  
so that we may come with him to your everlasting kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who died and rose again  
and opened the gate of glory.  
To him be praise now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All sit*

## 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.

### **THE FIRST LESSON**

read by Cllr Mark Williams,  
The Lord Mayor of Chester.

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

3. 1-5, 9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Here ends the first lesson.

*All stand*

## HYMN

- 1 **The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want:  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.**
- 2 **My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.**
- 3 **Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.**
- 4 **My table thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.**
- 5 **Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.**

*Psalm 23*

CRIMOND

*David Grant (1833-93) Jessie Seymour Irvine (1836-87)*

*All sit*

## THE SECOND LESSON

read by David Briggs, MBE, K.St.J.  
Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire.

A reading from the Revelation of St John.

21.1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Here ends the second lesson.

## THE SERMON

*Remain seated*

### 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.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The Cathedral Canons say*

Let us pray

Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted'.  
Let us pray for the Queen and all of the Royal Family, and for their friends.

God of all life,  
in the mystery of your eternal purpose  
you give and yet you take away.  
Surround the Queen, the members of the Royal Family  
and all those bereaved in their grief.  
Give them faith and hope in this dark time,  
and strengthen them for the days that lie ahead.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
the resurrection and the life. **Amen.**

Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.  
Let us pray for our nation: for those responsible for its good governance  
and for those who shape and influence the values by which we live.

Sovereign God,  
the defence of those who trust in you  
and the strength of those who suffer:  
look with mercy on our nation at this time,  
and help us to trust in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Give wisdom to those who govern us,  
and to all who work in the media  
and who influence public opinion;  
for we look to him who is our truth and our light,  
Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of God'.  
Let us pray for the organisations of which the Duke was Patron,  
his work especially for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme,  
and for those whom he served through his charitable work.

Merciful God,  
you have compassion on all that you have made  
and your whole creation is enfolded in your love:  
help us to stand firm for your truth,  
to struggle against poverty and oppression,  
and to share your love with our neighbour,  
that we may be instruments of your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world'.  
Let us pray for ourselves, and for all who mourn the death of loved ones.  
Be present, Spirit of the living God,  
and renew us in our pain and grief,  
so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances  
of this fleeting world,  
may rest on your eternal changelessness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life'.  
Let us give thanks for the sure hope of eternal life offered to us in Christ.

Blessed are you, O Christ!  
In your hand are all our yesterdays and today's;  
You are the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega;  
all time belongs to you, and all ages;  
you hold the keys of life and death,  
in hope for all your people;  
thanks be to you for the gift of life,  
and for the promise of eternal life;  
to you be glory and praise,  
through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

*All stand*

## HYMN

1 **Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:  
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

2 **Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let his church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.**

3 **No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!  
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

*Edmund L. Budry (1854-1932)  
translated by Richard B. Hoyle (1875-1939)*

MACCABEUS  
*George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)*

*All remain standing*

## PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

*The Bishop says*

Faced with the mystery of death, we are drawn to silence. I invite you to reflect with thanksgiving on the life of His Late Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh and to commend him to the mercy and peace of God.

*A silence follows*

Rest eternal grant to him O Lord:  
**and let light perpetual shine upon him.**

*The Dean says*

Eternal God, yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.  
We thank you for the life and service of His Late Royal Highness  
whose passing we mourn.  
As we honour his memory and commend him to your care,  
be with our nation in its loss,  
and help us to be faithful to your royal call to service;  
through Jesus Christ who died for us,  
and now lives in your eternal and glorious kingdom. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

*All remain standing as the Bishop says*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

*After a short play over, all sing*

**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!**

*Anonymous*

NATIONAL ANTHEM  
*Thesaurus Musicus (c.1743)*

*At the end, all remain standing as the Procession leaves the Cathedral with the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, High Sheriff of Cheshire, the Lord Mayor of Chester are conducted by the Clergy to the West Doors; all are asked to remain seated until directed to the nearest door by the stewards.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

