

The Royal Garrison Church
of
St Michael and All Angels
(Royal Military Academy Chapel)
Woolwich



The Centenary Celebration
of the formation of
The Artillery Clerks' Section

Sunday 6th April 2003

The Reverend Clifford Charlton O.C.F
Organist - Zara Bowness Smith

ORDER OF SERVICE

*During the singing of this hymn the Standard of the
Royal Artillery Clerks' Association will be received at the Chancel*

Introit Hymn:

**Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this 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 us was, is now,
And shall be evermore.**

Bidding Prayer

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Today as we celebrate the centenary since the formation of the Artillery Clerks' Section, we remember with gratitude and pride, the devotion, service and courage of former comrades. We also recall the ideals and purposes for which the members of the Royal Artillery Clerks' Association work. These are to support and succour those comrades in difficult circumstances; to care for our widows; to foster brotherly love and comradeship amongst all the members and to preserve true loyalty and devotion to our Queen and Country at all times, and in all places.

In this act of worship we shall dedicate ourselves anew to the service of God, the Queen and our country, and pray that he may strengthen us in Christ's service. We shall pray too for all who serve in the armed forces that they may play their part in establishing peace, goodwill and justice among the peoples of the earth.

The Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our fellow men, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen**

The Chaplain, standing up, shall say:

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

General Thanksgiving

All **Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We bless you for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Hymn:

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temple leave.

Finish then thy new creation
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.

Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah Chapter 52 Vs 7 to 10

Major General Mike Shellard

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of the herald who comes to proclaim prosperity and bring good news, the news of deliverance, call to Zion, 'Your God is king.' Hark, your watchmen raise their voices and shout together in triumph; for with their own eyes they shall see the Lord returning in pity to Zion. Break forth together in shouts of triumph, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has taken pity on his people and has ransomed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm in sight of all nations, and the whole world from end to end shall see the deliverance of our God.

Hymn:

**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.**

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

**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.**

New Testament Reading

John Chapter 15 Verse 9

Mrs Josephine Falzon

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

The Address

Hymn: *The collection is taken during the following hymn*

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou has been thou for ever wilt be.**

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

The Royal Artillery Commemoration

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Falzon

Let us remember with thanksgiving before God and all His people, all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who have given their lives in the service of their Sovereign and their Country.

Let us also remember our former Association comrades who have gone to their rest before us:

Terry Foster
Chris Freeman
Colin Turner
William Henry

Tony Wilson
Ian Palmer
John Cross
Fred Jones

Ches Allen
Andrew Salmon
Kevin Smyth

We will remember them

All We will remember them

The Prayers

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen and all who are set in authority under her; may they order all things in wisdom, righteousness and peace that all may honour one another and seek the common good.

Give all who work to improve international relationships the strength and courage they need, that they may find the true way to reconcile people of different race, colour and creed.

May men and women the world over have the justice and the freedom they need to live in security and peace.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, look we beseech you with compassion upon those who mourn the loss of a loved one, those whose hearts are filled with pain. Be with them in their sorrow and support them in their loneliness that they may know that your love is with them always.

Be with those who have no hope in Christ to sustain them in their grief. Surround them with caring friends and loving neighbours that they may be comforted and we ask that in time they may come to know for themselves the love of your Son Jesus Christ.

We remember those throughout the world who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially those for whom our prayers are desired. May your blessing be upon them and the healing touch of your spirit surround them that they may be filled with courage and hope in their troubles and know the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

For our country and heritage, for our way of life with its liberties and values, for all the good things we enjoy and which we hope will come to pass for the future generations of our country. We give thanks both to those who have sacrificed their lives for these gifts and to you our Heavenly Father and we ask that you accept all our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

The Royal Artillery Association Prayers

O Lord God of our fathers, who led your people through countless sufferings, keep us, we ask you, ever mindful of your mercy; pour your blessings upon us, unite us in the bond of brotherhood that the offering of our life's work may be acceptable to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grant we pray Thee, Almighty God, that we may truly honour and remember the sacrifice of our comrades, may we be filled with the spirit of their love and courage, and, forgetting all selfish and unworthy aims, may live together to the glory of your name and in the service of others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collects

For the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Peace

All O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, to serve you is perfect freedom. Defend us from all assaults of our enemies; that we may trust in your defence, and not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If there is to be peace in the world there must be peace among nations.
If there is to be peace among nations there must be peace in the cities.
If there is to be peace in the cities there must be peace between neighbours.
If there is to be peace between neighbours there must be peace in the home.
If there is to be peace in the home there must be peace in the heart.

For the Royal Regiment of Artillery

O Lord Jesus Christ, who dost everywhere lead Thy people in the way of righteousness, vouchsafe so to lead the Royal Regiment of Artillery that wherever they serve, on land or sea or in the air, they may win the glory of doing Thy will. Amen.

All O Trinity of love and power,
Sing Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

We say together the Lord's Prayer.

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 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 Standard of the Royal Artillery Clerks' Association is returned

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Queen and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all your servants, life everlasting. Amen.

National Anthem

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 Standard of the Royal Artillery Clerks' Section, Clergy and people depart.

