

THE PRIORY CHURCH OF  
ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT  
SMITHFIELD IN THE CITY OF LONDON



THE REVD PETER J COWELL  
&  
THE REVD DR DAVID J R LORD

THE FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2008  
AT TWO O'CLOCK

*Before the service begins:  
The march from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by F. Mendelssohn.*

*The Introit*

Sale, sancta parens, enixa puerperal	Hail, holy Mother, thou who didst
Regem: qui celum terramque regit	bring forth the King who ruleth
in sæcula sæculorum. Erasvit cor	heaven and earth for ever.
meum verbum bonum: dico ego	My heart hath uttered a good word:
opera mea Regi.	I speak my works to the King.

*A trumpet fanfare then introduces the first hymn as the High Altar is crossed.*

*Hymn*

*Praise to The Lord The Almighty*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:  
Hast thou not seen how thy heart's wishes have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If to the end He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

*The Priest says:*

**I**n the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.



**ALMIGHTY** God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Priest continues:*

**DEARLY** beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this congregation, to join together these Men in a holy covenant of love and fidelity. Such a covenant shows us the mystery of the union between God and God's people and between Christ and the Church.

The Holy Scriptures point to the offering and receiving of love as the principal sign of God's presence; the union of two people in heart, body and soul is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and that their love may be a source of grace and blessing to all whom they encounter. Today Peter and David wish to commend themselves to each other exclusively and publicly, in making a solemn covenant as a seal and sacrament of their mutual love and devotion. This step has been carefully considered and is not enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly, but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God.

*A Minister says:*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*The Confession*

**MERCIFUL** God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance, we have sinned in weakness, we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us for Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

*The Kyrie*

*Sung by the choir*

**KYRIE** Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

*Then shall the Priest pronounce*

*The Absolution.*

**ALMIGHTY** God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who truly repent and turn to him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Gloria*

*Sung by the choir*

**GLORIA** in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. *Amen.*

*The Collect*

**ALMIGHTY GOD**, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



*The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 18*

*Read by Fr. Hugh Wybrew*

AND it came to pass, when David had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. And Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*Hymn*

*All my hope on God is founded*

All my hope on God is founded;  
He doth still my trust renew,  
Me through change and chance He guideth,  
Only good and only true.  
God unknown, He alone  
Calls my heart to be His own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
Sword and crown betray His trust;  
What with care and toil He buildeth,  
Tower and temple fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
Is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
Deep His wisdom, passing thought:  
Splendour, light and life attend him,  
Beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore from His store  
New-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from man to God eternal  
Sacrifice of praise be done,  
High above all praises praising  
For the gift of Christ, His Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
Ye who follow shall not fall.

*The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13*

*Read by Mrs. Marie Cowell*

IF I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become a sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People:* Thanks be to God.



### *The Alleluia*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Felix es, sacra Virgo Maria, et  
omnia laude dignissima: quia ex te  
ortus est sol justitiae Christus Deus  
noster. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O holy Virgin Mary, you are happy  
and most worthy of all praise; for  
from you came forth the sun of  
justice, Christ our God. Alleluia!

### *The Gospel: John 15:9-17*

*Read by The Deacon*

*Deacon:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

*People:* Glory be to thee O Lord. (sung)

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.  
If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have  
kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I  
spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might  
be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved  
you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his  
friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth  
I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I  
have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have  
made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and  
ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit  
should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he  
may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another.

*Deacon:* This is the Gospel of Christ.

*People:* Praise be to thee O Christ. (sung)

### *Sermon*

*Mr. Ronald Keating*

### *Hymn*

#### *Praise my soul the King of Heaven*

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me His praise should sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress.  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spurs us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows.  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

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.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

### *The Vows*

**PETER, WILT** thou take this man as thy partner, in the sight of God?  
Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honour, and keep him in sickness and in  
health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both  
shall live?

*Peter shall answer, I will.*



*Then shall the Priest say unto David,*

**D**AVID, WILT thou take this man as thy partner, in the sight of God? Will thou love him, comfort him, honour, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

*David shall answer, I will.*

*Priest:* As David and Peter's family in Christ, will you share their joys, help them to bear their burdens, and do all in your power to uphold them in their covenant?

*People:* We will.

*Then shall they give their troth to each other in this manner: The Priest shall cause Peter to take David by the right hand, and to say after him as followeth.*

**P**ETER take thee David as my partner, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part; and thereto I pledge thee my troth.

*Then shall they loose their hands; and David, with his right hand taking Peter his right hand, shall likewise say after the Priest.*

**D**AVID take thee Peter as my partner, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part; and thereto I pledge thee my troth.

*Then shall they again loose their hands; and Peter shall give unto David a Ring: Dr Carlton Evans having protected said ring and laying the same upon the book with the accustomed duty to the Priest. The Priest, taking the Ring, shall deliver it unto Peter, to put it upon the fourth finger of David's left hand, and Peter holding the Ring there, and led by the Priest, shall say.*

**W**ITH this ring I thee bind, with my body I thee worship, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Then shall they again loose their hands; and David shall give unto Peter a Ring: Mr Darin Lawrence having protected said ring and laying the same upon the book with the accustomed duty to the Priest. The Priest, taking the Ring, shall deliver it unto David, to put it upon the fourth finger of Peter's left hand. And David holding the Ring there, and led by the Priest, shall say.*

**W**ITH this ring I thee bind, with my body I thee worship, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Then they shall both kneel down; and the Priest shall say.*

Let us pray.

**E**TERNAL God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life: Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, whom we bless in thy Name; that, as David and Jonathan's souls were knit together, so these men may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, whereof these Rings given and received are a token and pledge, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; protect them from all trouble and danger, and bring them, with us, to the heavenly feast of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Then shall the Minister speak unto the people.*

**F**ORASMUCH as David and Peter have consented together in a holy covenant, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a ring, and by joining of hands; I pronounce that they be bound together, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The minister continueth.*

**G**OD the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. Amen.



*Peter then recites a poem to David*  
*Sonnet 116, William Shakespeare.*

Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments.  
Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool,  
though rosy lips and cheeks  
within his bending sickle's compass come:  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

*David then recites a poem to Peter*  
*My true love hath my heart, Philip Sidney.*

My true love hath my heart and I have his.  
By just exchange one for the other given.  
I hold his dear, and mine he cannot miss,  
There never was a better bargain driven.  
My true love hath my heart and I have his,  
His heart in me keeps me and him in one,  
My heart in him his thoughts and senses guides:  
He loves my heart, for once it was his own,  
I cherish his because in me it bides.  
My true love hath my heart and I have his.

*Song of Celebration*

*The Alleluia from the Exultate Jubilate, By W A Mozart.*

**WE** do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

*The celebrant kisses the altar, turns to the people and sings:*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.  
*All* **And with thy spirit.**  
*Priest* Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
*Priest* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*All* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Turning back to the altar, he continues:*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

*A proper preface may be sung.*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

*The Sanctus is sung:*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.
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All glory, praise and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God our heavenly Father, for that thou hast created heaven and earth and all that is in them, and didst make man in thine own image, and of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon him and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his Holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death until his coming again.

Therefore we beseech thee, O merciful Father, to sanctify these thy gifts of Bread and Wine, that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, may be partakers of his most precious Body and Blood:

Who in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this, for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, making the memorial of the blessed Passion, mighty Resurrection, and glorious Ascension of thy dearly beloved Son as he hath commanded us, rejoicing in his gift of the Holy Spirit, and looking for his coming again with power and great glory, we thy servants, with all thy holy people, do set forth before thy Divine Majesty this \* Bread of eternal life and this \* Cup of everlasting salvation.

And we beseech thee to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and to grant to us and thy whole Church remission of our sins and all other benefits of his Passion. And we pray that all we, who are partakers of this holy Communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction and be numbered in the glorious company of thy saints.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, throughout all ages, world without end.

All Amen.

*The Celebrant sings:*

As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

All 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 Celebrant alone says:*

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to thine Apostles, 'Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you', look not on our sins but on the faith of thy Church and grant us the peace and unity of thy Kingdom, where thou livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant turns to face the People and says:*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And with thy spirit.

*A sign of peace is shared by the ministers and people*



*The Agnus Dei is sung by the choir.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: O Lamb of God that takest away the sins  
miserere nobis. of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: O Lamb of God that takest away the sins  
miserere nobis. of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: O Lamb of God that takest away the sins  
dona nobis pacem. of the world, grant us thy peace.

*The Priest, Ministers, Servers and the People receive Communion  
and the Choir shall sing us communion motets:*

*Laudate Dominum (W.A. Mozart)  
Ubi Caritas (M. Durufle)*

*The priest says the prayer after communion:*

May thy holy sacraments, O Lord, at all times purify and defend us; and  
may they bring us to the fullness of eternal salvation. Through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

#### *Hymn*

*Now thank we all our God  
(Lead by trumpet fanfare)*

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has 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.

*Then the Priest shall let them depart with this 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.

*Deacon* Go in the peace of Christ.

**All** Thanks be to God.

#### *Here Endeth The Service*

*David and Peter then process down the nave to the Toccata from symphony  
No. 5 by Charles Marie Widor. Outside there will be an opportunity to  
shower the couple with rose petals as they leave the church.*

*All are invited to a champagne reception in the Great Hall of St.  
Bartholomew's Hospital following the service.*

*The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great is the oldest church in  
London, and is the resting place of Rahere, the Augustinian canon who  
founded the Priory and St Bartholomew's Hospital, the oldest hospital in  
London.*

*The Mass Setting is The Coronation Mass, by W.A. Mozart.*

*Peter and David wish to thank all those involved, especially The Rector and  
Churchwardens of St. Bartholomew The Great, The Preacher, The Director  
of Music, The Choir and Organist, The Orchestra, The Trumpeters, The  
Vergers, The Florist, The Bell-Ringers, and all of you for your support.*