



Service for the Feast of St. John the Baptist

24th June 2020

Provincial Priory of London

The United Religious, Military and
Masonic Orders of the Temple and of
St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine,
Rhodes and Malta in England and
Wales and Provinces Overseas



WELCOME BY THE PROVINCIAL PRIOR

On behalf of the Knights Templar Province of London, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this service, held virtually in the Crypt of the Priory Church of St John, Clerkenwell, which was the site of the medieval headquarters of the English Knights Hospitaller and is now used by the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, its modern successor, and I thank the Order for allowing us to use these images.

This is the first time that the Province of London has held a service to mark the Feast of St John the Baptist, a “red letter day” not just for the United Orders but also in commemorating the anniversary of the foundation of Grand Lodge.

In gathering together to witness our Christian Faith, it also gives us an opportunity to remember those who have been adversely affected by this pandemic and to give thanks for those who have recovered from it. It also allows us to remember our connection with the Eye Hospital, forged over many years and to assist them by giving firstly to the Great Priory Appeal “20 for 2020” and then directly to the Eye Hospital through our own Provincial Relief Chest.

In the Bonds of the Order,



Right Eminent Knight David Thompson
Provincial Prior for the Province of London



INTROIT: Non nobis Domine
Psalm 113:9 – The Templar Chant

Composer: Patrick Doyle
Performed by: City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

WELCOME

Eminent Knight Rev'd Michael Seymour-Jones, Provincial Prelate

HYMN: All people that on earth do dwell

**1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve him with joy, His praises tell,
come now before Him and rejoice!**

**2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
We are His flock He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.**

**3 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.**

**4 For Why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

**5 To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God, whom earth and heaven adore,
from earth and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.**

Words: after William Kethe, died 1594
Music: Old Hundredth

BIDDING

Prelate

Beloved in Christ, we have come together
from Preceptories across the Province of London
to worship God,
to honour the fine traditions of this Order
and to pray for God's continuing blessing
on the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders
of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine,
Rhodes and Malta and, most especially, on the Province of London
and on the Order's works of charity.

On this day, as we commemorate the birth of Saint John the Baptist, let us pray.

Almighty God,
by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born,
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour
by the preaching of repentance:
lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example,
constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice,
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

CONFESSION

Eminent Knight Keith Florence, Provincial Marshall

Let us call to mind our failures
to live as the people God created and calls
and confess them to our heavenly Father
who is gracious and ready to forgive.

God our Father,
We come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
And ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:

All **save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:

All **save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do and think and say;
Father, forgive us:

All **save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
By temptations in the world around us;
Father, forgive us:

All **save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed;
To belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:

All **save us and help us.**

Prelate Almighty God,
Who in Jesus Christ has given us
A kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
Forgive your sins,
Open your eyes to God's truth,
Strengthen you to do God's will
And give you the joy of his kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts of the Apostles 13:14b-26

Eminent Knight Jamie Ingham Clark C.St.J., Trustee of the Saint John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

On the sabbath day, Paul and his companions went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.' So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes."

Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet."

'My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: The Malta Hymn

**1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to His feet your 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 fathers 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 as his mercy flows.**

**4 Angels, help us to adore Him;
who 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!**

Words: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793-1847)
Music: Praise my soul

SECOND READING: Luke 1:57-66, 80

Right Eminent Knight David Thompson, The Provincial Prior

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

Eminent Knight Rev'd Niall Johnston, Bodyguard Chaplain

PRECEPTS OF THE ORDER

Eminent Knight Antony Legge, Provincial Sub-Prior

Listen to our Precepts.

Love, honour, and fear God;
walk after His commandments.
Maintain and defend the Christian Faith and the honour, dignity and interests of our Order.
Be loyal to your Sovereign, dutiful to the Grand Master
and obedient to those who rule over you.
Prefer honour to wealth.
Be just and true in word and deed.
Give no willing cause of offence to any;
but, while opposing wrong and injustice,
deport yourselves courteously and gently.
Assist the distressed, the widow and the fatherless.
Eschew all debasing employment, recreation and company;
abhor pride and selfishness
and so raise the standard of chivalrous honour,
striving for the welfare of your Brethren.

RECOMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Eminent Knight Rev'd Dr Simon Thorn, Great Almoner

Those who are Knights of the Order of the Temple,
Are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
In the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
And, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example
The good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
Giving alms generously
And loving your neighbours as yourself?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
By prayer for the world and its leaders,
By defending the weak and by seeking peace and justice?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
That you may be rooted and grounded in love
And bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Knight Rev'd Canon Andrew Stevens

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good
and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people;
bless, we beseech thee, the work of the St John Eye Hospital Group.
Especially accept our thanks for its work
done with skill and faithfulness during this troubled time;
and grant that it may continue to be a centre of light and healing
to all who come within its walls
and to those touched by its outreach;
through Him who is the Light of the World
and the Great Physician, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Loving God,
we place into your care
those who work or volunteer in the emergency services,
in health and social care or who provide essential services.
Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body.
Keep them safe from harm.
May they know our deep gratitude for all that they do;
may they know your protection and peace.
Bless them in these challenging days and bless their families.

All

Amen.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All

Amen.

O Father of all,
we pray Thee for those whom we love and see no longer:
grant them Thy peace,
let Thy light perpetual shine upon them and,
in Thy loving wisdom and almighty power,
work in them the good purpose of Thy perfect will.

All

Amen.

Almighty God,
Father of all mercies and Giver of all comforts,
deal graciously with those who mourn that, casting care on Thee,
they may know the consolation of Thy love.

All

Amen.

We draw together our prayers in the words our Saviour taught us.

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 who 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.**

HYMN: The Templar Hymn

**1 For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confest,
Thy name, O Jesu, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**2 O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia**

**3 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia**

Words: William Walshaw How, 1823-1897

Music: Sine nomine

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Prelate The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Prelate Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted;
honour all people; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Bodyguard Chaplain Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

Words: Anonymous

Music: National Anthem

Fanfare: Gordon Jacob, 1895-1984



St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

The Eye Hospital Group is the only charitable provider of expert eye care in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, treating patients regardless of ethnicity, religion or their ability to pay. The flagship Hospital in Jerusalem and facilities in Anabta, Hebron and Gaza plus the Mobile Outreach Programme, which travels across the West Bank bringing eye care to isolated communities, ensures the greatest possible reach and impact in the region. The main hospital in East Jerusalem has been operating for 137 years. The hospital is the main provider of eye care for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and sees many of the most complex eye cases that are referred from medical centres across the West Bank and Gaza. As it is the only charitable provider of eye care, the importance of the hospital for the region cannot be overstated.

The Eye Hospital has faced, and continues to face, unprecedented challenges at this time and has appealed for support to keep the Hospital staff employed through the pandemic and beyond.

If we do not act now to provide for continuity of staffing beyond this pandemic, the Eye Hospital of the future will be a much-diminished institution, if it survives at all.

The Grand Master has launched the Knights Templar 20 for 2020 appeal in support of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group in this perfect vision year of 2020. Each single donation of £20 will be recognised by the Great Priory of Knights Templar sending you a limited-edition Swift tie / lapel pin. You can find details of how to donate at:

https://markmasonshall.org/images/news_articles/2020/KT_20for2020_Appeal_Trifold_Leaflet.pdf

The Provincial Prior hopes that every Knight in the Province will donate to this appeal. You can make more than one donation but, as the Provincial Prior mentions in his welcome to this service, we would encourage you, if you are able, to top up your donation through the Provincial Appeal especially as this is the only collection of alms at this service!

You can donate at:

<https://mcf-relief-chest-scheme.everydayhero.com/uk/st-john-s-eye-hospital-jerusalem>

Please use this link rather than going in through the Masonic Charitable Foundation home page.

The virtual images used in the broadcast service are of the Crypt of the Priory Church of the Order of St John.

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The Templar Hymn Home Choir was produced by Eminent Knight Lewis Clement.

Video-editing was kindly carried out by Mr James Cann

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