



**A Service of Remembrance  
and Commemoration  
on the 20th Anniversary of  
the 9/11 Attacks in the USA**

11 September 2021



## The Welcome and Bidding

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral, in the heart of London, alongside the Borough Market and London Bridge, which has known sadly too well in recent years, the effects of terrorism. Whether you are here in person or joining us online, we are glad that you can be with us as together we mark the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001.

On that Tuesday morning, two planes collided with the World Trade Centre in New York, bringing the twin towers of the building down. Another plane crashed into the Pentagon, and yet another was diverted by its passengers before it could reach its target. 2,996 people lost their lives that day, people from the United States and around the world, as well as many people who were mentally and emotionally scarred by what happened that morning.

The fig tree to which, later in the service we will be tying ribbons in remembrance, was planted and blessed in memory of those who lost their lives in the attacks. The tree calls to mind some comforting words from the Bible: 'The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations'. Those words are as true today as they were back then.

So, first of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For the 2,996 people who lost their lives on this day twenty years ago, and for their families and loved ones and all who will be mourning them today.

For those who were injured that day and those who continue on the path of physical, mental and emotional recovery.

For the Lord's guidance and wisdom, and for the gift of discernment among the leaders of the nations, especially as tensions arise once more in Afghanistan.

For the Emergency Services, called to respond on the front line in challenging circumstances, and in thanksgiving for the dedication, sacrifice and heroism of those who sought to rescue and help others that day.

For all the peoples of the world, that we shall seek to work together more closely, respecting the humanity of one another and expressing that concern through our commitment to listen and to learn from one another.

For those of other faith communities, for all who live by the values of inclusion and welcome.

For God's grace that we may discover new energy to work for a just and happy society where terrorism has no cause.

For all who are sick, afraid, alone, bereaved and exhausted in this continuing time of pandemic and for the healing of the nations.

We bring all these our needs and intentions to God as we pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

**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 those 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.**

Unchanging God,  
as time moves on, you remain constant,  
as year rolls into year, you are as you are.  
Hold us in your love  
as we remember again  
the events that took loved ones from us,  
the events that changed our lives,  
the events that bring us here.  
Bring us through this present time  
to the brink of your eternity  
where with all we love  
we will be enfolded in you  
for ever and ever.

**All**

**Amen.**

## **Reading**

Micah 4. 1–4

*Read by Kristin Ruby.*

*A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.*

In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised up above the hills.  
Peoples shall stream to it,  
and many nations shall come and say:  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more;  
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their  
own fig trees,  
and no one shall make them afraid;  
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

For the word of the Lord.

**All**

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflection**

*Led by Martin South, President (US and Canada),  
Marsh McLennan Limited*

*The Dean introduces and leads*

## **The Litany of Reconciliation for the Community of the Cross of Nails**

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race,  
class from class,

**All**

**Father, forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what  
is not their own,

**All**

**Father, forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays  
waste the earth,

**All**

**Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

**All**

**Father, forgive.**

**All** Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,  
**Father, forgive.**

**All** The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,  
**Father, forgive.**

**All** The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,  
**Father, forgive.**

**All** Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.  
**Amen.**

## **The Tying of Ribbons of Remembrance**

*Following the tying of ribbons of remembrance to the fig tree, silence is kept in memory of those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks. The Dean continues*

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Let us pray.

**All** O God,  
who has delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the light of your kingdom:  
grant that we also may walk in newness of life  
and seek those things that are above;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## The Blessing

*Given by the Bishop of Southwark.*

**All**                   The Lord is here,  
**his Spirit is with us.**

**All**                   We need not fear,  
**his Spirit is with us.**

**All**                   We are surrounded by love,  
**his Spirit is with us.**

**All**                   We are immersed in peace,  
**his Spirit is with us.**

**All**                   We rejoice in hope,  
**his Spirit is with us.**

**All**                   We travel in faith,  
**his Spirit is with us**

**All**                   And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**





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**Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.**

**The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.**

**As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.**

**In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.**

**Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.**

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