

Westminster Abbey



A Service of Thanksgiving in the 30th year of South Africa's democracy

Tuesday 16th July 2024
Noon



©Reuters/Tony Harris

About today's commemorative and thanksgiving service

'We understand it still, that there is no easy road to freedom', declared Nelson Mandela at his inauguration as President on 10 May 1994. He pledged to build a society 'in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity – a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world'.

South Africa had just emerged from over four decades of apartheid, under which generations of black South Africans had been dispossessed of their birthright. Apartheid was ended by the united struggle of the people of South Africa, led by leaders of the calibre of Nelson Mandela, Robert Sobukwe, O R and Adelaide Tambo, Steve Biko, and Bishop Desmond Tutu. People came together in their millions, in their communities, workplaces, and schools to assert their right to freedom. From the shootings at Sharpeville in 1960, to the school students uprising in 1976, to the incursions of young freedom fighters, and mass demonstrations and stay-at-homes of the 1980s, South Africans fought back against brutal repression.

Driven into exile, the liberation movements rebuilt themselves within South Africa and inspired an unparalleled movement of global solidarity. At the UN the frontline states of Southern Africa called for mandatory sanctions against apartheid. The Nordic countries and eastern bloc gave material support. In the countries of Western Europe and the USA hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life campaigned for the isolation of apartheid South Africa.

In Britain the Anti-Apartheid Movement led the country's largest ever movement of international solidarity, calling for a sporting, cultural and economic boycott. From the 1960s the British government imposed a partial-arms ban and in 1977 voted at the UN for a mandatory arms embargo.

But it was left to individual UK citizens in their hundreds of thousands to boycott South African products and impose people's sanctions against apartheid. At the same time, they campaigned for the release of Nelson Mandela and all those imprisoned for their opposition to apartheid. Church and other faith networks played an invaluable role, especially in the establishment and funding of International Defence and Aid Fund's support for the families of thousands of political prisoners.

Thirty years on, apartheid casts a long shadow over all the societies of Southern Africa. The AAM's successor organisation Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) and other people-to-people initiatives all over the UK are still working to help make Mandela's pledge a reality, and to ensure that 'out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud'.

Anti-Apartheid Movement Archives/ACTSA

The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

Members of the congregation are requested kindly to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Special Service Choir of Westminster Abbey, directed by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Peter Holder, Sub-Organist.

The Uxolo Singers; Rachel Morrison, Grace Vaughan, Catherine Jackson, Deborah Whalley, Matthew Whalley, and Sam Robinson, are conducted by Jenny Stirling.

The Piano is played by Matthew Morrison.

Music before the service

Matthew Jorysz, Assistant Organist, plays

Prelude and Fugue *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*
in E flat BWV 552

Psalm Prelude Set 1 no 2 *Herbert Howells (1892–1983)*

Prelude on the Old Hundredth *John Joubert (1927–2019)*

Chant de paix *Jean Langlais (1907–91)*

Meditation on Brother James's Air *Harold Darke (1888–1976)*

The High Sheriff of Greater London, Millicent Grant, is received by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Presentations are made and she is conducted to her seat.

The Right Honourable the Lord Boateng is received. Presentations are made and he is conducted to his seat.

Her Majesty Queen Nompumelelo Zulu, along with Princess Cebolabo Zulu, Prince Nqobangothando Zulu, and Prince Nhlangano Zulu, are received. Presentations are made and they are conducted to their seats.

The Honourable Ronald Lamola MP, Minister for International Relations and Co-operation, representing the South African government, accompanied by His Excellency Kingsley Mamabolo, The High Commissioner of South Africa to The United Kingdom, along with Her Excellency Alenere Mamabolo and grandson Jeremiah Khumo Mamabolo, are received. Presentations are made and they are conducted to their seats.

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Robert Rigby, is received. Presentations are made. All stand as he is conducted to his seat, and then sit.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The choir sings the Introit

HOW good it is, how wonderful,
wherever people live as one!
It is like the sacred oil on the head
flowing down Aaron's beard,
down to the collar of his robe.
It is like the dew of Hermon
running down the mountains of Zion.
There God gives blessing:
life for ever.

Judith Bingham (b 1952)

Psalm 133

All stand to sing the Hymn, during which the procession moves to places in Quire and the Sacrarium



NOW thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.

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. Amen.

Nun danket 413 NEH

Nun danket alle Gott Martin Rinkart (1586–1649)

in Johann Crüger's Praxis pietatis melica 1647 translated by Catherine Winkworth

(1827–78)

*All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE,
Dean of Westminster, gives the Bidding*

WE meet in a church for nations and Commonwealth, on holy ground, where memory is precious. We meet under God and in good company to give thanks for thirty years of democracy in South Africa. In 1994 South Africans held their first non-racial, democratic elections. After voting in those elections, Nelson Mandela spoke of 'a new era of hope, reconciliation and nation building'. Thirty years down the long road to justice and righteousness we now honour those who have carried that flame and worked so tirelessly in that cause. Giving thanks for their courage and their witness, we recommit ourselves to the vision of a nation free from dominion of any kind. We pledge ourselves to effort and to hope. Here we will pray for ourselves and for South Africa and the welfare of all her people.

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5: 24

All sit

Christina McAnea, 4th General Secretary of UNISON, gives a Reflection

Innocent Masuku sings Uxolo (Peace), by Todd Matshikiza (c 1921–68)

MASIHLALE ngoxolo!
Yekani umona,
Thandanani!
Masihlale ngoxolo!
Hem, Hem, Hem
Thandazelani izwe lethu,
lisindisw Ebumyameni,
Kuphele uburamuga,
Kwanokuzondelelana,
Lingatshabalali
Liphelele'esthogweni,
Lingatshabalali nathi sonke.

Ubugaganli balo Izwe lena
Busezandleni zenu balihleleyo.
Ubuqaqanli beZwe lena
Busezandleni zenu nonke.
Busezandleni zenu abalakhileyo.
Ezandleni zenu nonke.
Yekani umona thandanani!
Mashlale ngoxolo!
Bambanani ngezandla
Nibenze ngemhumba enye
Yamanyama imhumba
Nibe nto nye.
Bambanani nonke!

*Let us all live together in peace!
Let us abandon all our jealousies,
And love one another!
Let us all live together in peace!*

*Pray for this country of ours,
That it may be delivered from
darkness,
That no more foreigners should
invade it,
That we should zealously watch
out,
Against its destruction.
Let us not fall into the pit of
damnation,
Let us avoid our own destruction,
all as one.*

*The splendours of our land
Should sit in the hands of those who
built it*

*The glory of our land
Should be in the hands of all of us.
Should be in our hands, not those of
others, in the hands of everyone!*

*Let us abandon all our jealousies,
And love one another!*

*Let us take each other by the hand,
Work together, one society,
That has all the colours of the
rainbow,*

Let it be so.

Let us all take each other by the hand!

*Uxolo (Peace)
Todd Matshikiza (c 1921–68)*

*Traditional South African
translated John Matshikiza (b 1954–2008)*

All stand

The Right Reverend Rosemarie Mallett, Area Bishop of Croydon, says

IN silence let us remember before God the people of South Africa, the people of the frontline states, and those who worked in solidarity with them, in the struggle for freedom from apartheid. We remember all those who died in the quest for equal rights in South Africa; for the right to their land; for the right to vote; for the right to a life of dignity. Today we remember them.

Silence is kept

We remember now those whose lives were irrevocably changed by apartheid, through orphanhood or injury, by loss of land or assets, through illness and grief.

Let us acknowledge our own failings; in what we have done or left undone; in what we have said, or not said, in the face of injury and injustice to our fellow citizens, in the UK and in South Africa, in the time of apartheid, and in the time of recovery from apartheid. Let us ask forgiveness of our neighbour, our family, our fellow citizens, our ancestors, and our God, acknowledging the legacies of apartheid which remain.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Bishop Rosemarie continues

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive you your sins and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit. The choir sings the Anthem

BEATI quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Blessed are they whose way is pure,
who walk in the law of the Lord.*

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

Psalm 119: 1

*Mr Bassim Haidar, on behalf of all Honorary Consuls, affirms the call to
unity given by First President Nelson Mandela*

*His Excellency Kingsley Mamabolo, High Commissioner of South Africa
to the United Kingdom, presents The Honourable Ronald Lamola MP,
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, representing the
government of South Africa, who gives a Reflection*

Innocent Masuku sings David Motsamai

OKGAGAPA yamalemela gohle
Oh Motsamai O mogaka! Sekwankwetla Mandela
O kgagapa, mogaka molwela kgololosego ya Africa Borwa
Kangwaga waketekgoloa robongwe masome a marataro le bo bedi
Watshela molelwane waleba Botswana Land
Bosigo jwa fihla Lefatshe la roromela Ikhutse Madiba.

You are the hero of all Nations

You a hero, a king of kings Mandela!

You the hero that fought for Freedom of South Africa

At the year 1862 you were given a name David Motsamai

You jumped the border to Botswana Land

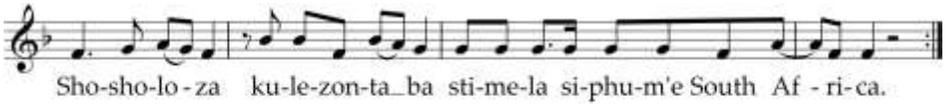
The night came, the world was shaken. Rest in peace Madiba.

A tribute to Nelson Mandela

Mohau Mogale

All stand

Innocent Masuku sings Shosholoza (please see the explanatory note on page 19). All sing these responses, which alternate, as led by the choir



All sit

A Member of the Westminster Parliament reads the Lesson

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.’

Revelation 21: 1–4

Thanks be to God.

The Right Honourable The Lord Boateng CVO DL gives the Address

The choir sings the Anthem

BLESSED are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Amen.

The Beatitudes
Arvo Pärt (b 1935)

Matthew 5: 3–12

The Reverend Mark Birch MVO, Precentor, introduces the Prayers

Let us pray.

All kneel or remain seated

ALMIGHTY God, on whom all our hopes are founded, we give thanks for your mercy and faithfulness to South Africa; for the establishing of democracy, for the Constitutional Court of South Africa, and all other institutions committed to justice, freedom, and opportunity for all.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Reverend David Stanton, Canon in Residence, says

WE give thanks for all that strengthens civil society throughout the nation; for all who provide education, housing, social services and healthcare; for innovators, investors, and entrepreneurs; for all who are working for a better future.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ayanda Mholobo, speaking in Zulu, says

OUR God and God of our ancestors, we ask your blessing on our countries' governments, leaders, and all who exercise power justly and rightfully. Guide them in the ways of your Kingdom; in peace and security, justice and freedom. Giver of all good gifts, inspire in them a desire that all prosperity, minerals, and natural resources, should be shared by all generations.

Guide us in the ways of peace and security, justice and freedom.

Nhlavutelo Rikhotso says

OUR God and God of our ancestors, we ask your blessing on the people of South Africa and all who live in her. We give thanks for their example, courage and tenacity in building a non-racist and equitable nation. Draw us together to continue the work, to undo the legacies of racism, and guide us in friendship towards a future close at hand, where all shall be afforded dignity.

Guide us in the ways of friendship and dignity, that all may enjoy the fruits of freedom.

Maya Pillay says

OUR God, and God of our ancestors, strengthen our commitment, as peoples of all races and creeds, to forge a common bond for true harmony: to compromise and to share the fruits of this world; to banish bigotry and hatred, and the tactics of division. May we inspire each other to care for the environment, to be accountable for our use of it, and to be mindful of the generation for whom we will be ancestors – that we may leave a world worthy of your holy name.

God bless Africa; guard her children; guide her leaders; and give her peace, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Archbishop Trevor Huddleston (1913–98)

The Precentor concludes

In confidence and trust let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

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.

All stand to sing the Hymn



LET all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

The Church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

Luckington 394 NEH
Basil Harwood (1859–1949)

Antiphon (I) and The Temple
George Herbert (1593–1633)

All remain standing

Faith leaders; Mrs Trupti Patel, representing the Hindu community, Rabbi Charley Baginsky, representing the Jewish community, and Mufti Sir Hamid Patel, representing the Muslim community; offer words of blessing for South Africa and its peoples.

*The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE,
Bishop of London, pronounces the final Blessing*

GO forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain standing. All sing the National Anthem of South Africa

NKOSI sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanisw' uphondo Iwayo
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela,
Thina Iusapho Iwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke,
O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa, South Afrika, South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom
In South Africa our land!

Enoch Sontonga (c. 1873–1905)

*Enoch Sontonga
and C.J. Langgenhoven (1873–1932)*

All sing

GOD save our gracious King,
G long live our noble King,
God save The King.
Send him victorious,
happy, and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The King.

All remain standing as the procession departs

Music after the service

The organist plays

Tocatta on 'Now thank we all our God' Egil Hovland (1924–2013)

The bells of the Abbey are rung

Members of the congregation are requested kindly to remain in their seats until directed to move by the Honorary Stewards

SHOSHOLOZA

Shosholoza is a traditional gold miner's song from South Africa. The language is a mix of Zulu and Ndebele and stems from the call and response style used to keep spirits up during the long, dark, hours. The rhythm represents the repeated swing of the axes to dig.

Nelson Mandela says he sang it often while on Robben Island and the song has permeated culture to mean any struggle – particularly in Apartheid, but also in the sporting arena. Hence, it was used in the film *Invictus* about the 1995 Rugby World Cup. It is so popular that it is often referred to as South Africa's second national anthem.

The song conveys journeys away from family lands to work in the mines of South Africa, 'the train cannot be stopped, we are going to the mines, deep in the earth, to dig for gold'. Today it has many interpretations, including this one: 'the train of freedom cannot be stopped, it is taking us to our destination where we will live in prosperity from the gold of our nation'.

ACTION FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

ACTSA is a UK registered charity working with civil society throughout the region to overcome the long legacy of apartheid and colonialism. Even in the face of setbacks and challenges, as this still-young democracy based on constitutional law develops, ACTSA and its partners remain committed to ensure, in the words of Nelson Mandela, 'that out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud'.

ACTSA is a co-convenor with the South African High Commission team in the UK, for the year of commemoration, under the theme 'All shall be afforded dignity', taken from the Bill of Rights. To support our work, you can donate using this QR code, by credit card:



To give regularly, please email us: info@actsa.org
For information on the 2024 programme: www.sa2024.org