



Mary Ward Service

**An Ecumenical Celebration of the
Life and Legacy of Mary Ward**

28th January 2024, St Thomas's Church, Osbaldwick

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our annual Mary Ward service.

Please note that this service is live-streamed and will be recorded and made available afterwards on the church website:

<https://www.osbaldwickandmurtonchurches.org.uk/>

If you are joining us at home, please light a candle in unison with those who gather in St Thomas's church.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Mary Ward Service

CALL TO WORSHIP

*'A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another:
just as I have loved you,
you are to love one another.'*
(John 13.34)

If we wished for a lighter life,
It would be a life without love.

All **Spirit, be with us as we carry this weight.**

The first candle is lit.

If we wished for a pristine life,
It would be a life without love.

All **Spirit, be with us as we carry these scars.**

The second candle is lit.

If we wished for an uncomplicated life,
It would be a life without love.

All **Spirit, be with us as we carry this pain.**

The third candle is lit.

As these flames, so our lives:
flickering, burning, changing,
alight with the love
which is yours.

All **Amen.**

To love the poor – live, die and rise with them

Stand HYMN

Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts! Shine through the darkness!
Christ be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today!*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ be our light!

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, still many thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Christ be our light!

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

Christ be our light!

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell (b 1957)

was all the aim of Mary Ward. (Epitaph)

Sit PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Let us pray.

All **Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal
have mercy on us.**

Each thing we have received –
From God it came.

Each thing we enjoy –
From God it comes.

Each thing we pray for –
From God it will be given.

All **Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal
have mercy on us.**

Open us up, Lord, we
whose lives are locked,
whose thoughts are well rehearsed,
whose prayer is predictable.

Open us up to depths we have not explored,
truths we have avoided,
paths we have not followed,
beauty we have yet to admire.

Open us up to Jesus,
in whom all things are held together
for God and for our good.

All **Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal
have mercy on us.
Amen.**

(pause for reflection on our need for forgiveness)

Hear and believe these words of Jesus:

Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace. Come and follow me.

Glory to the Creator who gives us life,

A// **Glory to Jesus whose love remakes us,**

Glory to the Spirit, companion on our journey.

A// **Glory be to God. Amen.**

PSALMODY (Psalm 133 & 134)

How good and how lovely it is
to live together in unity.

A// **Precious it is, like oil,
poured out to anoint the head.**

Unity is like the dew
falling on holy mountains.

A// **With it comes God's blessing:
life for evermore.**

Come, bless the Lord, you servants,
fulfilling God's commands:

A// **Love and praise your maker,
the God of heaven and earth.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Listen for the voice of God within the words of Scripture.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 1, verses 4 – 10.

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵ ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’

⁶ Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ ⁷ But the Lord said to me,

‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.’

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth;
and the Lord said to me,

‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over
kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.’

For the Word of the Lord;

A//

Thanks be to God.

Only fear to fear too much!

(Mary Ward)

Stand HYMN

Like a candle flame
Flickering small in our darkness
Uncreated light
Shines through infant eyes

God is with us, alleluia (Men)
God is with us, alleluia (Women)
Come to save us, alleluia (Men)
Come to save us (Women)
Alleluia! (All)

Stars and angels sing
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows
Can this tiny spark
Set a world on fire?

Yet his light shall shine
From our lives, Spirit blazing
As we touch the flame
Of his holy fire.

Words and Music: Graham Kendrick (b 1950)

Sit SCRIPTURE READING

Listen for the voice of God within the words of Scripture.

A reading from the St Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians,
chapter 12, verses 12 – 26.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

For the Word of the Lord;

All **Thanks be to God.**

*All that is not in Him and for Him
will pass away with time. (Mary Ward)*

SERMON

A reflection by The Most Reverend and Right Honourable
Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York.

LITANY FOR PEACE

Christ of peace, Prince of peace, Giver of peace —
we pray for peace.

A// **We have had enough of hatred
which aims a gun at another and pulls the trigger.**

We have had enough of resentment
which destroys by malice or slander.

A// **We have had enough of greed
which by force or trickery takes what is not rightfully theirs.**

We have had enough of fear
which makes children hide lest evil strikes them.

A// **We have had enough of anger
which explodes to shatter joy.**

We have had enough of jealousy
which denigrates the grace it envies.

A// **We have had enough of memories which embitter and feed evil.**

We have had enough of ancient divisions which old people
enshrine and which children absorb with their mothers' milk.

A// **We have had enough of power which usurps the rights of others
and manipulates for its own ends.**

We have had enough of injustices which refuse to be righted.

A// **We have had enough!**

Child of peace
A// **Prince of peace**
Giver of peace

A// **We pray for peace — and let it begin with us!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom
in our world today.

Lord God,
because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things,
we hold to his word and share his plea:
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where nations budget for war
while Christ says, 'Put up your sword':
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where countries waste food and covet fashion
while Christ says, 'I was hungry... I was thirsty...':
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where powerful governments
claim their policies are heaven blessed
while Scripture states that God helps the powerless:
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where Christians seek the kingdom
in the shape of their own church
as if Christ came to build and not to break barriers:
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where women who speak up for their dignity
are treated with scorn or contempt:
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where men try hard to be tough
Because they're afraid to be tender:
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where our prayers falter,
our faith weakens,
our light grows dim:
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Where Jesus Christ calls us:
A// **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

Silence is kept.

Lord God, you have declared that your kingdom is among us.
Open our ears to hear it, our hands to serve it,
our hearts to hold it.
A// **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR UNITY

Creator of the universe,
who made us different from one another
in myriad ways we can see
and in more ways we shall never know,
yet made us all in your image;
fill our hearts with your love and
our minds with your wisdom,
that we may truly be brothers and sisters of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
A// **Amen.**

THE LORDS PRAYER

We join our prayers into one,
praying the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

*To proceed as Christ did was the portion of
grace I only desired for my part and all
the happiness I wished for in this life...*

*I purposed ever after to embrace with
great affection whatsoever might make
me like unto Christ in life and manners.*

(Mary Ward)

Stand HYMN

God is Love, let heav'n adore him;
God is Love, let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before him
And exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heav'ns above,
God who breathes through all creation:
God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and love enfolds us,
All the world in one embrace:
With unfailing grasp God hold us,
Ev'ry child of ev'ry race.
And when human hearts are breaking
Under sorrow's iron rod,
Then we find that selfsame aching
Deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness
Sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving kindness
Guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
O'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
O'er the universe must reign.

Words: Timothy Rees (1874 – 1939) Music: R.H. Prichard (1811-1887)

CLOSING RESPONSES

A// From where we are to where you need us,
Jesus, now lead on.

A// From the familiarity of what we know
to the wonder of what you will reveal,
Jesus, now lead on.

A// To transform the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,
Jesus, now lead on.

A// Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,
Jesus, now lead on.

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Call to Worship

Adapted from Gideon Heugh, *Darkling, An Advent Journey*, self-published, 2022.

Litany for Peace

Adapted from E. Body, "Anzac Dawn", in Geoffrey Duncan (ed.) *Seeing Christ in Others*, Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2002.



TODAY'S COLLECTION

The congregation of St Thomas's church is privileged to be the custodians of important historic heritage – not least the gravestone of Mary Ward.

Our church is open every day of the year. On Sundays, hymns and prayers echo between these walls, on Wednesday mornings children's laughter fills the place, and on Thursdays the friendly chatter of our coffee drop-in brings joy to those who seek friendship and company. We like to think Mary Ward would approve!

To future-proof our church building for the next generation, we are fundraising to carry out substantial repair and restoration works. This includes upgrading the lighting and heating system, as well as much-needed replastering and decoration work.



The total sum we need to raise will be well over 150,000 pounds. Please help us care for this special place by giving generously. The QR code and the link below will take you to our online giving page.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/28c7ff9f-f4e0-497d-9890-1bfcd866c491>