



LITURGICAL RESOURCES
for the Celebration of HM The Queen's
Ninetieth Birthday

Notes of Guidance
Outline of Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving (St Paul's)
Collects and Graces
Suggested Readings for a Celebration

Compiled by
**THE LITURGICAL COMMISSION
OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

Notes

It is hoped that many churches and communities will be able to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. This leaflet contains, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, the Outline of the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving which will be held at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 10 June 2016. Churches are invited to use elements of this outline in their own preparations, especially the bidding prayer, intercessions, and act of thanksgiving in the appendices. In addition to the resources below, St Paul's has commissioned the Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, to compose a choral anthem, *I love all beauteous things*, which can be used in the context of a celebration service and is now available.

Also included here are the Collects which The Queen has been pleased to approve for use in services celebrating her birthday, and Graces for use at church and community gatherings. Finally, the Liturgical Commission suggests a number of appropriate readings suited to a celebratory service.

Dr Matthew Salisbury
National Liturgy and Worship Adviser

**OUTLINE of the
Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving
to mark HM The Queen's 90th Birthday,
St Paul's Cathedral,
Friday 10 June 2016 at 11.00 a.m.**

Hymn

Welcome and Bidding Prayer
(for St Paul's text see Appendix A)

Lord's Prayer

[**Choir Anthem**]

Collect

First Reading (at St Paul's, this is Psalm 139: 1-18)

Hymn

Second Reading (at St Paul's, this is Luke 12: 22-31)

Hymn

Sermon

[**Choir Anthem**]

Prayers (for St Paul's text see Appendix B)

[Choir Anthem]

(this could be the choir anthem specially commissioned by St Paul's Cathedral for the occasion: I love all beautiful things – Judith Weir, Master of the Queen's Music [words by Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate in 1926] available from Chester Music: promotion@musicsales.co.uk)

Reflections on the passing of the years (a short reflection written by a 90 year old and delivered by a 90 year old)

Short piano piece (at St Paul's, this is a piece by Sir Arnold Bax who was the Queen's first Master of the Queen's Music between 1952 and 1953)

Act of Thanksgiving (at St Paul's, this involves ecumenical leaders and interfaith leaders; for text see Appendix C)

Hymn (at St Paul's, this is 'Lord, for the years' [words: Timothy Dudley-Smith; tune: Michael Baughen])

Blessing

National Anthem

Organ Voluntary

Appendix A – Bidding Prayer

Dear friends,

we come together to give thanks,

as one family under God:

for life in all its fullness,

for love in all its power,

for joy in all its wonder.

Most especially today do we give thanks

for the length of years that has been granted

to our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth:

for her faithful witness, dutiful commitment, loving leadership,

gentle constancy, royal dignity and kindly humanity.

And, as we give thanks for Her Majesty,

so also do we give thanks for Philip, Duke of Edinburgh,

and all the Royal Family:

for mutual love and support

and for service to this country and to the Commonwealth.

Rejoicing at our good fortune,

we nonetheless pray for those in need:

the lonely and the despairing,

the sick and the fearful,

the weak and the oppressed –

that each precious life may be redeemed

by love of God and love of neighbour,

that together we may share in one another's joy.

All these our thoughts and prayers let us offer up to the throne of God in the words our Saviour Jesus Christ commanded and taught us, praying:

Our Father...

Appendix B – Prayers

With the Psalmist,
let us call upon the name of the Lord,
and give thanks for all that God has done,
that the hearts of those who seek the Lord may rejoice.

God of Glory,
we give you thanks for bringing us to birth;
let our mouths be filled with your praise
that we may sing of your honour all the day long.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Light,
we give you thanks for festivity and celebration;
refresh us as we rejoice together
that we may know life in all its fullness.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

God our King,
we give you thanks for the ninetieth birthday of Elizabeth our Queen;
sustain and strengthen her
that her reign may continue to bless us all.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Strength,
we give you thanks for the support of others;
bless Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
that this birthday may be a day of joy.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Saviour,
we give you thanks for Jesus Christ your Son;
enliven the Church, his body in the world
that it may be united in his love.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Guide,
we give you thanks for those who inspire us;
encourage all people of faith
that together we may embrace the future you have in store for us.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Maker,
we give you thanks for the world in which we live;
help us to tend and care for it
that all life may enjoy the fruits of creation.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Judge,
we give you thanks for all who strive for a better world;
give us your gift of peace
that war and terror may be no more.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Deliverer,
we give you thanks for those who rescue us;
save all who are in trouble
that today they may be free.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Refuge,
we give you thanks for our homes and families;
strengthen the communities from which we come
that together we may care for each other.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

God our Shepherd,
we give you thanks for the hope of heaven;
receive into your care those who have gone before us
that they may take their rest.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

God of Glory,
we give you thanks for bringing us to birth;
let our mouths be filled with your praise
that we may sing of your honour all the day long.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence

Heavenly Father,
as we celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen,
receive our heartfelt thanks
for all that you have given her in these ninety years
and for all that she has given to her people.
Continue, we pray, your loving purposes in her,
and as you gather us together in celebration,
unite us also in love and service to one another.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Appendix C – Act of Thanksgiving by ecumenical leaders and interfaith leaders

For the faithful witness of our Sovereign,
We give thanks and praise.

For her dutiful commitment to her people,
We give thanks and praise.

For her loving leadership of nation and family,
We give thanks and praise.

For her gentle constancy amidst continuing change,
We give thanks and praise.

For her royal dignity in joy and in adversity,
We give thanks and praise.

For her kindly humanity to one and all,
We give thanks and praise.

We give thanks and praise for these divine gifts given to our gracious Queen, yesterday, today, and in the years to come.

Amen.

Collects

Her Majesty the Queen has approved the following Collects for use in services celebrating her ninetieth birthday this year.

Heavenly Father, who hast brought our gracious sovereign Queen Elizabeth to the completion of her ninetieth year, and dost gather her people in celebration of the same: grant that we, rejoicing before thee with thankful hearts, may ever be united in love and service to one another, and her kingdom flourish in prosperity and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Father,
as we celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen,
receive our heartfelt thanks
for all that you have given her in these ninety years
and for all that she has given to her people.
Continue, we pray, your loving purposes in her,
and as you gather us together in celebration,
unite us also in love and service to one another;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Graces

The Liturgical Commission is pleased to circulate these graces for use at church and community gatherings such as street parties.

Bountiful God, giver of all good gifts,
we give thanks for the many years and long reign of our Queen;
Bless our food, our neighbourhood,
and our enjoyment of each other's company.
Help us to learn from Queen Elizabeth's commitment to her people,
so that our community may be strengthened
and all may flourish.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the King of love.

Gracious God, give our Queen continued wisdom and strength
to carry out the promises she has made;
and bless (*this food, and*) those who are gathered here,
that, sustained by service for others,
we may faithfully serve you, all the days of our life.

[With words from The Queen's First Christmas Broadcast, 1952]

Suggested readings

I Kings 1.32-40 or Ecclesiastes 12

Psalm 21.1-7 or Psalm 72

Ephesians 1.15-23 or I Peter 2.13-17

Mark 12.13-17

See also the Collect, readings, and Post Communion for the Sovereign in *Common Worship: Festivals*, p. 367, and the Collects for the Queen in the *Book of Common Prayer* or in the *Common Worship* main volume, p. 107.

www.churchcare.co.uk
queensbirthday@churchofengland.org

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