



Mary Ward Service

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

29th January 2023, Candlemas, St Thomas' 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 at St Thomas church.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Mary Ward Service

'My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' (The Candlemas Gospel, Luke 2.30-32)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We meet in the name of God,
Creator of the universe,
source of true humanity,
mother and father of all.

All **Amen.**

The first candle is lit

We meet in the name of Jesus,
Word made flesh,
saviour of fallen humanity,
lover of all.

All **Amen.**

The second candle is lit

We meet in the name of the Holy Spirit,
Lord and giver of life,
midwife of new humanity,
inspirer of all.

All **Amen.**

The third candle is lit.

As these candles, so our lives:
flickering, burning, changing,
alight with the flame of God's presence.

All **Amen.**

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)

"Satisfy yourself with nothing less than God." (Mary Ward)

Sit

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Let us pray

In you, gracious God
the widowed find a carer
the orphaned find a parent
the fearful find a friend.

In you,
the wounded find a healer
the penitent find a pardoner
the burdened find a counsellor.

In you,
the miserly find a beggar,
the despondent find a laughter-maker
the legalists find a rule breaker.

In you, Jesus Christ
we meet our Maker
and our match.

And if some need to say 'help me'
and if some need to say 'save me'
and if some need to say 'hold me'
and if some need to say 'forgive me'

then let these be said now
in confidence
by us.

We pause for silent prayer.

O Christ, in whose heart is both welcome and warning
say to us, do to us, reveal within us
the things that will make us whole.
And we will wait;
and we will praise you,

All

Amen.

PSALMODY (Psalm 147)

Sing praise to the Lord who is good,
Sing to our God who is loving,

All **to God all praise is due.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles;

Women: **God heals the broken-hearted,
and binds up all their wounds.**

Men: **God fixes the number of the stars
and calls each one by its name.**

The Lord is great and all-knowing;
God's wisdom can never be measured.

Women: **The Lord raises the lowly,
and humbles the wicked to the dust.**

Men: **O sing to the Lord, giving thanks,
sing psalms to our God with the harp.**

God covers the earth with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth;

Women: **God clothes the mountains with grass,
and with plants to serve human needs.**

Men: **God provides the beasts with their food,
and tends to the young raven's cry.**

God takes no delight in weapons,
nor pleasure in warriors' strength.

All **God delights in those who show reverence,
in those who trust in God's love.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

BIBLE READING

Hear the word of God.

All

Our ears are open.

A reading from St Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 18 – 31.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

All

Thanks be to God

Stand HYMN

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
allelu, Alleluia!

*Alleluia, alleluia
alleluia, allelu, alleluia*

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
allelu, Alleluia!

*Alleluia, alleluia
alleluia, allelu, alleluia*

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds out from the mouth of God.
allelu, Alleluia!

*Alleluia, alleluia
alleluia, allelu, alleluia*

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

Sit HOMILY

A reflection offered by Sr Patricia Harriss CJ

*"Act not out of fear, but solely from love, because we are
called by God to a vocation of love." (Mary Ward)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Music from 'Called to be Happy', a cantata in honour of Mary Ward, commissioned by the *Maria Ward Schule*, Mainz, Germany, in celebration of its 300th anniversary. This new cantata is composed by Peter Rose and written by Anne Conlon, and draws parallels between Mary's life experiences and those of young women today. It premiered in March 2022.

'Be Happy' is performed by the choir and orchestra of the *Maria Ward Schule*. The director of Music is Matthias Warzecha and the soloist Sophie Heitzmann. Copyright © Peter Rose & Anne Conlon, Josef Weinberger Ltd, London, 2022. Information about the cantata, the CD and the Sheet Music is available from:

www.roseconlonmusic.co.uk/called-to-be-happy.

*Be happy, trust in God
And he will be with you on your journey each day.*

*Child there is nothing to fear.
You'll only find your path if you start on your way.*

*Your world is torn with conflict and strife,
But so was mine.
As you see war each day on the news,
I saw the armies of Europe on the march.*

*Your world is blighted with hunger and disease,
But so was mine.
As you see a starving child in the news,
I shared my food with the children of the poor.*

*Your world is rushing into headlong change,
But so was mine.
When the ships sailed west in search of new lands,
The world we knew could never be the same.*

*Child there is nothing to fear.
You'll only find your path if you start on your way.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

Let us close our eyes and pray
for those who need to be remembered tonight:

Lord, in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have made the news headlines today
because of what they have done or said:

For those who have been brought to our attention
through a meeting or conversation:

For those who are in hospital, in care,
or in a place which is strange to them:

For those in whose family, marriage or close relationship
there is stress or a break-up:

For those who are waiting for a birth or a death,
or news which will affect their lives:

For those who need to forget the God they do not believe in,
and meet the God who believes in them:

For those whose pain or potential we should not forget
to share with God tonight:

Lord, we believe that you hear our prayer,
and will be faithful to your promise to answer us.
When we open our eyes again, may we do so,
not to end our devotions, but to expect your Kingdom,
for Jesus' sake.

All **Amen.**

*"Be not troubled at what you cannot mend
but confide in God."* (Mary Ward)

COLLECT FOR CHRISTIAN 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.

All **Amen.**

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.**

Stand HYMN

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there is doubt true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light
And where there's sadness ever joy.

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
It is in giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we are born to eternal life

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek...

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light
And where there's sadness ever joy.

Anonymous, attributed to Fr Esther Bouquerel (1855–1923)

CLOSING RESPONSES

On our heads and on our houses:

All **The blessing of God.**

In our coming and our going:

All **The peace of God.**

In our life and our believing:

All **The love of God.**

At our end and new beginning:

All **The arms of God to welcome us
and bring us home.**

Amen.

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