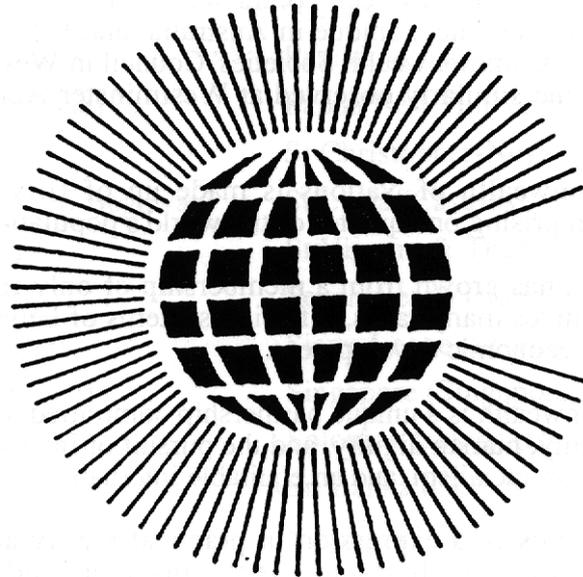


St George's Cathedral

Perth

'A Connected Commonwealth'



An Observance for
COMMONWEALTH DAY

Multi-faith Evensong
with the Royal Commonwealth Society

Sunday 10 March 2019

5 o'clock

An Introduction to the Commonwealth Observance

This is now the fourth decade that a Multi-faith Observance, such as we are celebrating today, has been conducted at St George's Cathedral, Perth. This observance is based on one similarly observed at Westminster Abbey, London. The modern Commonwealth of Nations has evolved as an international partnership of countries dedicated to co-operation and governed by mutual respect. Today, it is an international family of 53 member countries spread through Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Mediterranean, North America, and the Pacific. Its 2 billion people are over a quarter of the world's population. Over half are aged 25 or under.

Equality, justice, and democracy are the core beliefs of the Commonwealth. They are reflected in the decisions by Commonwealth Heads of Government and their ministers who meet regularly, and in the activities of the various Commonwealth organisations and agencies.

'A Connected Commonwealth'

What is the Commonwealth?

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of fifty-three independent and equal sovereign states. It is home to 2.2 billion citizens, and includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries, spanning five regions. Thirty of its members are small states, many of them island nations.

What is the Commonwealth theme?

Every year, the Commonwealth chooses a theme to provide a focus for its activities. The theme is celebrated throughout the year with special events taking place during Commonwealth Week, including the Commonwealth Service.

What does 'A Connected Commonwealth' mean?

In 2019 we mark the 70th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth, and the theme 'A Connected Commonwealth' speaks of the enduring practical value and global engagement made possible as a result of the determination of our culturally diverse and widely dispersed family of nations to cooperate and work together in friendship and goodwill.

Our governments, institutions and people connect at many levels, including through parliaments and universities. We work together to protect our natural environment and the ocean which we share and that connects many of our nations shore to shore. We cooperate on trade to encourage inclusive economic empowerment for all people — particularly women and youth

and marginalised communities. We take part in friendly sporting rivalry and encourage our young people to participate in sport for development and peace.

As a connected Commonwealth we collaborate by varied means in ever closer accord around the shared values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter.

Countries of the Commonwealth

Antigua and Barbuda	Jamaica	Saint Vincent and The Grenadines
Australia	Kenya	Samoa
The Bahamas	Kiribati	Seychelles
Bangladesh	Lesotho	Sierra Leone
Barbados	Malawi	Singapore
Belize	Malaysia	Solomon Islands
Botswana	Malta	South Africa
Brunei	Mauritius	Sri Lanka
Cameroon	Mozambique	Swaziland
Canada	Namibia	Tanzania
Cyprus	Nauru	Tonga
Dominica	New Zealand	Trinidad and Tobago
Fiji	Nigeria	Tuvalu
The Gambia	Pakistan	Uganda
Ghana	Papua New Guinea	United Kingdom
Grenada	Rwanda	Vanuatu
Guyana	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Zambia
India	Saint Lucia	

The selection from the flags of the nations of the Commonwealth are carried by students from Peter Carnley Anglican Community School, and the young fellows of the Royal Commonwealth Society WA.

The service is sung by members of the St George's Cathedral Consort directed by Dr Joseph Nolan, Organist & Master of the Choristers. The music during this Evensong includes

Responses:	Malcolm Archer (b.1952)
Canticles:	<i>Fauxbourdons</i> , Sarah MacDonald (b.1968)
Anthem:	<i>A Prayer</i> , Richard Lloyd (b.1933)

This evening's service is supported by the Royal Commonwealth Society (WA branch).

Introduction

Please remain standing for the acting Dean's introduction.

The Venerable Canon Kathy Barrett-Lennard, introduces the observance.

For over forty-thousand years, Australians have walked this vast continent. In the last two-hundred years people from all over the world have come to walk this land also. Australia is a collection of islands, both great and small, but we are not an isolated people: we are connected to the world family. Today we give thanks to God that fifty-three of the world's nations have, over the course of more than eighty years, come together as a free association of peoples, seeking one another's good and sharing one another's burdens. We pray for and give thanks for the faithful service rendered by Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth.

We recognise global challenges and seek to create a better future for all citizens through sustainability, safety, prosperity and fairness. We recognise that the world's religions seek peace, and it is only those who distort sincere faith who misuse religion for violent ends. We recognise that the human instinct is also for peace, for the mutual flourishing of all.

We come together from our many different faith traditions to ask God's blessing on the Commonwealth, upon Commonwealth citizens living here in Western Australia, and also to lift our voices in praise and song. Our diverse cultures and all our hopes and aspirations, come together tonight as we worship the one Lord in the beauty of holiness.

We stand here together as citizens of the Commonwealth of Nations and we bring these nations into this House of Prayer under the signs of these flags.

Prayer for the Commonwealth

The acting Dean prays

Almighty God, you have gathered together peoples from every tribe, and faith, and language, and nation, into one beneficent union: grant that the peoples and leaders of the nations of our Commonwealth may so seek your will and know your blessing, that peace and righteousness, truth and justice, in every realm may flourish and abound; so that your will be done and your Kingdom come. **Amen.**

Please sit.

*The choir sings an ancient Hebrew festal psalm
in the 16th-century English translation by Myles Coverdale.*

I was glad when they said unto me :
 We will go into the house of the Lord.
 Our feet shall stand in thy gates :
 O Jerusalem.
 Jerusalem is built as a city :
 that is at unity in itself.
 For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord :
 to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.
 For there is the seat of judgement :
 even the seat of the house of David.
 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem :
 they shall prosper that love thee.
 Peace be within thy walls :
 and plenteousness within thy palaces.
 Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God :
 I will seek to do thee good.

Psalm 122:1–7, 9, Lætatus sum

Reading from the Hebrew Bible

A reading from the Book of Ruth.

IN THE DAYS WHEN THE JUDGES RULED, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they

went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people'. But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.' Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law'. But Ruth said,

'Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die —
there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Ruth 1:1–18

Here ends the first reading.

Please stand.

Magnificat

MY SOUL DOTH MAGNIFY THE LORD :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
M For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our fore-fathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

TEXT: the Song of Mary, Luke 1:46–55;

MUSIC: Fauxbourdons, Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968).

Please sit.

Reading from the Christian Testament

Read by Terry Spiro, President, Royal Commonwealth Society, WA branch.

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

JESUS SAID, ‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames”. But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might

want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment”. Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them”. He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent”. He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead”.’

Luke 16:19–31

Here ends the second reading.

Please stand.

Nunc dimittis

LORD, NOW LETTEST THOU THY SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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

TEXT: the Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29–32;

MUSIC: Fauxbourdons, Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968).

Prayer of the evening office

The officiant and choir sing

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Please sit or kneel to pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR FATHER which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Collect for the Commonwealth

Almighty God, who hast united the nations of the Commonwealth under **A**one Head and in one accord; grant wisdom, discernment and integrity to their leaders; peace, prosperity and faith to their citizens, that they may be united in fellowship; and strengthen the nations of our Commonwealth in one bond and community, to the honour and glory of thy Holy Name. Amen.

Collect for peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Collect for the evening

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

During the following hymn an offering will be received, for the work of the Cathedral in its service to this city and its diverse communities. Your generous support is much appreciated.



Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one is here.
Come bow before him now with reverence and fear.

In him all grace is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire; with splendour he is crowned

How awesome is the sight! Our radiant King of light!
Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still for the Spirit of the Lord is brooding o'er this place,
Poured out in every time, and over every race.

Be still and hear him speak, him whom the nations seek.
Be still for the Spirit of the Lord is brooding o'er this place.

Be still for the peoples of the Lord are gathered in his sight.
Be still and worship him, be radiant in his light.

In all you bring to him, in all you sing to him
Be still, for the peoples of the Lord are gathered in his sight.

TEXT & MUSIC: David J Evans (b. 1957) adapted.

Address

*Given by the Reverend Peter Boyland,
Rector, Christ Church Claremont.*

The choir sings

Lord, I would give this all of me
That I might live a while in Thee:
That more and more this heart of mine
Might Thee adore and be all thine.

Wilt Thou then take a gift so small
That for thy sake is none at all?
E'en such as I, blind, foolish, dumb,
Lord, bid thy little servant come.

Lord, bid thy servant come.

TEXT: Irene Cavanaugh;
MUSIC: Richard Lloyd (b. 1933).

Commonwealth Day message

*From Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth,
and delivered by His Excellency the Honourable Kim Beazley AC,
Governor of Western Australia.*

Readings & prayers of various faiths

*The opening chapter of the Glorious Qur'an, Islamic faith,
read by Sheikh Muhammad Agherdien in Arabic and English.*

In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful.
Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds,
the Beneficent, the Merciful,
Master of the day of judgement.
You we serve, and you we ask for help.
Guide us on the right path,
the path of those you have blessed, those who incur no anger,
and those who have not gone astray.

Sūratu'l-Fātiḥa, Qur'ān 1.

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, the Bahá'í faith, read by Jennifer Habibi.

The utterance of God is a lamp, whose light is these words: Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship. He Who is the Day Star of Truth beareth Me witness! So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The one true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words.

Exert yourselves that ye may attain this transcendent and most sublime station, the station that can ensure the protection and security of all mankind. This goal excelleth every other goal, and this aspiration is the monarch of all aspirations. So long, however, as the thick clouds of oppression, which obscure 289 the day star of justice, remain undispeled, it would be difficult for the glory of this station to be unveiled to men's eyes....

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, cxxxii.

*The Discourse on Loving-kindness, the Buddhist faith,
read by the Venerable Ajahn Brahmali.*

This is what should be done
by one who is skilled in goodness,
and who knows the path of peace:
let them be able and upright,
straightforward and gentle in speech,
humble and not conceited,
contented and easily satisfied,
unburdened with duties and frugal in their ways.
Peaceful and calm and wise and skilful,
not proud or demanding in nature.
Let them not do the slightest thing
that the wise would later reprove.
Wishing: In gladness and in safety,
may all beings be at ease.
Whatever living beings there may be;
whether they are weak or strong, omitting none,
the great or the mighty, medium, short or small,
the seen and the unseen,
those living near and far away,
those born and to-be-born —
may all beings be at ease!
Let none deceive another,
or despise any being in any state.
Let none through anger or ill-will
wish harm upon another.
Even as a mother protects with her life
her child, her only child,

so with a boundless heart
should one cherish all living beings;
radiating kindness over the entire world:
spreading upwards to the skies,
and downwards to the depths;
outwards and unbounded,
freed from hatred and ill-will.

Whether standing or walking, seated or lying down
free from drowsiness,
one should sustain this recollection.

This is said to be the sublime abiding.

By not holding to fixed views,
the pure-hearted one, having clarity of vision,
being freed from all sense desires,
is not born again into this world.

*Karaṇīyamettā Sutta,
Suttanipāta 1:8 and Khuddakapāṭha 9,
Khuddaka Nikāya, Suttaṭṭaka,
Tipiṭaka: the Pāli Canon.*

*From the chapter on dwelling together in harmony of the Glorious Qur'an, Islamic faith,
read by Sheikh Muhammad Agherdien in Arabic and English.*

O humanity! Behold, We have created you all out of male and female, and have made you into nations and tribes, so that you might come to know one another. Verily, the noblest of you in the sight of God is the most deeply conscious of Him. Behold, God is the all-knowing, all-aware.

Sūratu'l-Hujurāt, Qur'ān 49:13.

A prayer for humanity by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Bahá'í faith, read by Jennifer Habibi.

O Thou compassionate Lord, Thou Who art generous and able! We are servants of Thine sheltered beneath Thy providence. Cast Thy glance of favour upon us. Give light to our eyes, hearing to our ears, and understanding and love to our hearts. Render our souls joyous and happy through Thy glad tidings. O Lord! Point out to us the pathway of Thy kingdom and resuscitate all of us through the breaths of the Holy Spirit. Bestow upon us life everlasting and confer upon us never-ending honour. Unify mankind and illumine the world of humanity. May we all follow Thy pathway, long for Thy good pleasure and seek the mysteries of Thy kingdom. O God! Unite us and connect our hearts with Thy indissoluble

bond. Verily, Thou art the Giver, Thou art the Kind One and Thou art the Almighty.

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá

from Bahá’í Prayers:

A Selection of Prayers revealed by Bahá’u’lláh, the Báb, and ‘Abdu’l Bahá.

*Benediction for the Commonwealth, read by the Most Reverend Donald Sproxton,
Auxiliary Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth:*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy, who through your Son gave us a marvellous example of charity and the great commandment of love for one another. Send down your blessings on our Commonwealth and on all its peoples, especially those who are deprived of the basics of life such as food, clothing, housing, and education. May we generously devote ourselves to helping those in need and so serve you faithfully in our neighbour; you who live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Reverend Rae Reinertsen, the Cathedral Pastor, concludes the prayers.

For all that gives joy to our lives, we give thanks; for all that troubles our hearts, we make prayer: for the sick and suffering, for the poor and destitute, for the angry and afraid, for friends and family, for those who hurt us, for our city, state and nation, for all peoples, faiths and languages, for all we share, for all that divides us: we lift our hearts heavenward.

And let us say: **Amen.**

Secretary-General’s Affirmation for 2019

Read by Mr Melvin Tom, Chair Young Fellows Committee, RCSWA. Please stand.

Let us now stand to pledge ourselves afresh to uphold and serve the values and fellowship of the Commonwealth.

We affirm that every person possesses unique worth and dignity.

We affirm our respect for nature, and that we will be stewards of the earth by caring for every part of it, and for it as a whole.

We affirm our belief in justice for everyone, and peace between peoples and nations.

Joining together in kinship, affinity, diversity and unity, as members of a worldwide family of nations, we acknowledge our shared inheritances, and celebrate the goodwill and mutual respect which inspire us to work with one another, for the good of all, through the networks and opportunities offered by Commonwealth connection.

response

We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth
as a force for good in the world,
and pledge ourselves to its service,
now and for the future.

Hymn



God is love, let heaven adore now;

God is love, let earth rejoice;

let creation sing before God

and exalt now 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 holds us,

ev'ry child of ev'ry race.

And when human hearts are breaking

under sorrow's iron rod,

then we find that self-same 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 forever

o'er the universe must reign.

TEXT: Timothy Rees (1874–1939), adapted;

MUSIC: 'Abbot's Leigh', Cyril Taylor (1907–91).

Blessing

The acting Dean prays

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Queen,
the Commonwealth,
and to all people,
peace and concord.
Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
Amen.

Numbers 6:22–27

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Royal Anthem

All remain standing and may sing

God save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.

The choir, followed by the flags, followed by the servers, clergy, and faith representatives.

Organ voluntary

♪ *Aria, op. 51* — Flor Peeters (1903–86)

The organ voluntary is offered as a gift to God to sit and enjoy. Please exit quietly if you do so during its playing. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Reception

You are invited to partake of refreshments either outside on the Parvis or in Burt Memorial Hall.