



ROYAL AIR FORCE

A service of Thanksgiving commemorating

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# The Battle of Britain

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Main Post Chapel, Presidio of San Francisco  
Sunday, 15 September 2002

*Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.*

—Winston S. Churchill 1940



In friendship and in service to one another, we are pledged  
to remember those of all nations who died in the Royal Air Force  
and the Air Forces of the Commonwealth and Allied Nations.

In their name we give ourselves to this noble cause,  
proudly and thankfully remembering them.

# † Order of Service †

## Opening Hymn (All Stand.)

Organist Russ Ward

O God, Our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thine throne  
The saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thine sight  
are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Bears all it's sons away  
They fly, forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guide while life shall last  
And our eternal home. *Amen*

*The Ensign of the Royal Air Force is then escorted  
to the Sanctuary by Pipe Major Fred Rutledge  
and the Civil Air Patrol Colour Guard.*

**The National Anthem of the United States**  
**The Nation Anthem of Great Britain**

*The Ensign of the Royal Air Force is received and  
placed on the Alter. 900 Wing Standard is posted.  
Colour Guard takes seats.*

## The Bidding (All remain standing.)

Chaplain Richard Mapplebeckpalmer

## The First Lesson (All be seated.)

C. Howard Cavil from Exodus 13 & 14

*All stand and sing the following hymn*

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand.

*Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven!*

*Feed me till I want no more.*

*Feed me till I want no more.*

Open now the crystal fountains  
whence the living waters flow.  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through. (Refrain)  
When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe of Canaan's side (Refrain)

## The Second Lesson (All be seated.)

Wing Commander Martin Walsh, RAF

Revelation of John 21, 1-7

*The Apostles' Creed (All stand.)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of  
heaven and earth: And Jesus Christ his only Son  
our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the  
Holy Spirit and born of Mary. He suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again, He ascended into  
heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the  
Father. He will come again to judge the living and  
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Answer: *And with thy spirit.*

Officiant: Let us pray.

### The Lord's Prayer *(all kneel)*

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, now and forever. Amen

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Answer: *And grant us thy salvation.*

Officiant: O Lord, save the state.

Answer: *And mercifully hear us when we call upon Thee.*

Officiant: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer: *And make the chosen people joyful.*

Officiant: O Lord, save thy people.

Answer: *And bless thine inheritance.*

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer: *For it is Thou, Lord, only, that makes us dwell in safety.*

Officiant: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer: *And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

*All stand and sing the following hymn.*

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He has loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.  
Glory! glory hallelujah! Glory! glory, hallelujah!

Glory! glory, hallelujah! Our God is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred  
circling camps;  
They have builded Him an alter in the evening dews  
and damps;  
I have read His righteous sentence by the dim and  
flaring lamps;  
His day is marching on. (Refrain)

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never  
sound retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His  
judgement seat;  
O be swift my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on. (Refrain)

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born, across the  
sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;  
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men  
free!  
While God is marching on. (Refrain)

### Greeting and Homily *(All be seated.)*

Hugh Campion

### The Anthem

George Leiby

*During the singing of the Anthem, the  
congregation remains seated in a silent act of  
remembrance for our fallen comrades.*

### The Sermon

Chaplain Richard Mapplebeckpalmer

### The Prayers *(All be seated or kneel.)*

A Prayer for the President of the United States

A Prayer for Her Majesty the Queen

A Prayer for the Royal Air Force  
and all Airmen and Airwomen



## † The Blessing †

*The Ensign of the Royal Air Force is returned to the Colour Guard, and they retrieve the 900 Wing Standard. The Colour Guard remains at attention facing the altar.*

*The Pipe Major will play the melody of Amazing Grace. The congregation will join in singing the hymn.*

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

### Retire the Colours

*The Pipe Major will then play the Royal Air Force March while the Colour Guard retires the Standard and the Ensign.*

*The congregation retires.*



The members of the Royal Air Force and 900 (Golden Bear) RCAF Wing wish to place on record their sincere appreciation to the staff of the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, for making this service of prayerful remembrance possible.