

RINGING OF THE BELL OF HOPE

September 11, 2023, 8:40am



About this Service

The Bell of Hope

This bell—the Bell of Hope—was given to us, the people of New York, by the City of London after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. It was created by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London’s East End, where the original Liberty Bell was cast in 1752.

Despite its proximity to the World Trade Center site—fewer than 100 yards away—St. Paul’s Chapel remained unscathed by the destruction, becoming known as “The Little Chapel that Stood.” Approximately 1.5 million people now visit St. Paul’s Chapel annually. It is a place of global pilgrimage.

In the first days after the attacks, the Episcopal community in New York set up barbecues at St. Paul’s to help feed the first responders. For nine months afterward, St Paul’s Chapel served as a sanctuary for Ground Zero workers, with thousands of volunteers providing food, shelter, and spiritual support. Trinity and St. Paul’s continue active ministries to those in need today.

We ring the bell every September 11 at 8:46 am, the time that the north tower of the World Trade Center was struck by the first hijacked airplane. The tolling reminds us of our brothers and sisters who died, and we join the city and the nation in offering prayers for God’s peace upon them, their families, and their communities.

We hope our observances, and our remembrances, offer comfort and the embrace of a hopeful future.

Source: TCWS liturgical and communications staff



Prayers for Peace and Reconciliation

All gather around the Bell of Hope in the churchyard of St. Paul's Chapel.

Welcome—8:40am

Jesus sets before us the hope of the kingdom of God. All that is broken will be bound up in God's healing love. All that is marred by weakness and sin will be transformed by God's reconciling love. It is in this hope that we bring to God our prayers, our selves, our remembrances, and look to God for the new life of the kingdom.

Tolling of the Bell of Hope—8:46am

The bell is rung in a pattern of four sets of five strikes, following the tradition of the New York City firefighters' salute to the fallen.

Silence follows the tolling.

Prayer of St. Francis

BCP p. 833*

Leader Let us pray.

All **Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Scripture

Isaiah 2:2–3a, 4

Leader In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD." He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

Leader And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer

BCP p. 494*

Leader Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with all those who grieve this day. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

Collect for the Human Family

BCP p. 815

Leader O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

The Commendation

BCP p. 499*

Leader Into your hands, loving God, we commend all those we love but see no longer. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.
All **Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

*Romans 15:13**

BCP p. 339*/p. 366

Leader May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All exit in silence.



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LEADERS: The Rev. Phillip A. Jackson, The Rev. Michael A. Bird

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This service is based on liturgical elements from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP). Scripture readings are excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, except the Blessing, which is excerpted from the Common English Bible. Other liturgical elements may include materials compiled by Trinity Church staff (TCWS) from publications including *Common Worship: Pastoral Services* (CW:PS), and contemporary liturgical resources. An asterisk (*) denotes that the text is adapted from the original source material. Cover image: Bell of Hope, St. Paul's Chapel churchyard, photo © Colin Winterbottom.



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76 Trinity Place, New York, NY 10006
T 212.602.0800 | trinitywallstreet.org

The Rev. Phillip A. Jackson, *Rector*
The Rev. Michael A. Bird, *Vicar*