

A faded, grayscale background image of St Paul's Cathedral in London, showing its iconic dome and two towers with clock faces.

St Paul's Cathedral

ALMA service

THE RIVER OF LIFE

*A service celebrating the world-wide church  
and ten years of ALMA*

Sunday 13 July 2008  
1800

# WELCOME TO ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Many parishes throughout the Diocese of London have links with parishes across the world. This service celebrates these world-wide relationships as we focus on the tenth anniversary of our special diocesan link with Angola and Mozambique.

ALMA (Angola, London and Mozambique Association) which means SOUL in Portuguese is the partnership between the Anglican Church in Angola, London and Mozambique. This was formalised on 12th July 1998 in the signing of a covenant at a special service in St Paul's Cathedral. This evening that covenant relationship is renewed.

The identity of ALMA is in relationship. In addition to general prayer and financial support across the diocese there are currently over 40 London parishes twinned with parishes in Angola and Mozambique and several schools are formally twinned.

During the service a collection will be taken which will be divided between the work of ALMA and St Paul's Cathedral. We are grateful for your generous giving. United Kingdom taxpayers are encouraged to use Gift Aid envelopes for their donation

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this special service.

Particular thanks go to

Twyford Church of England High School Gospel Choir

St John's Church of England Primary School, Friern Barnet, Year 5

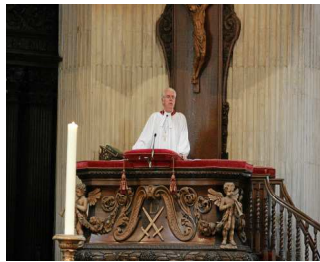
'Music for Change' (a leading arts and educational charity) and George Fiawoo, from Ghana, who has worked with St John's Year 5 to teach them West African traditional drum rhythms

## ORDER OF SERVICE

From 17.25 the Twyford Church of England High School Gospel Choir sing.



At 17.55 The Right Reverend Michael Colclough, Canon Pastor, Chair of ALMA Task Group, welcomes people to cathedral.



Stand

Hymn

during which the Bishops, Dean and Chapter move to their seats under the Dome.

We have a gospel to proclaim,  
Good news for all throughout the earth,  
The gospel of a Saviour's name:  
We sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
Not in a royal house or hall,  
But in a stable dark and dim:  
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,  
Hated by those he came to save,  
In lonely suffering on the cross:  
For all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,  
Empty the tomb, for he was free:  
He broke the power of death and hell  
That we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
By all creation glorified:  
He sends his Spirit on his Church,  
To live for him, the Lamb who died.



Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel message we proclaim;  
We sing his glory, tell his worth.

Words Edward Burns (b. 1938)  
Tune Fulda William Gardiner in 'Sacred Melodies' 1815



Sit

The River of Life  
Revelation 22. 1 & 2a  
read by the Reverend Helen Van Koevering  
Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,  
bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of  
the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.



Rivers of Prayer flow out from the dome to the sound of African drumming.  
The prayers for link parishes across the world have been contributed by many different  
people and parishes.



The Bishop of London says The Opening Greeting  
Welcome in the name of Christ.  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you  
All  
and also with you.



The Bishop of London says  
The Words of Introduction

Silence is kept.

The Bishop of London says  
Gathered here from many nations,  
let us pause together to ask for God's forgiveness.  
Let us acknowledge our failure to love God and neighbour  
and let us acknowledge our misuse of the world we share.

## Act of Penitence

led by Felicia Munjaidi and Samantha Alfred

Voice 1 We have stories to share of drought and flood,  
of river beds that have been dry,  
and waters which have surged and overflowed.



Voice 2 We have stories to hide of hearts and minds  
which have known drought and flooding.

Voice 1 Where our hearts are dry and hardened  
and we have failed to receive God's love.  
Lord have mercy.



Voice 2 Where our hearts have been flooded by selfish desire  
and fear and we have failed to respond to the needs of others.  
Lord have mercy.

Voice 1 Where we have abused the world's resources  
and been indifferent to the consequences of our actions.  
Lord have mercy.

We confess that we have not loved God  
with all our heart and soul  
and mind and strength;  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
Lord in your mercy  
Forgive us and revive us  
with your life-giving water.

## Absolution

The Right Reverend Mark Van Koevering, Bishop of Niassa says  
In our world and in our lives, let justice roll down like waters  
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive you your sins  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



The Twyford Church of England High School Gospel Choir sings  
Alleluya Chim E  
(a Nigerian song written by Harcourt Whyte, arranged by Steve Rhodes)

English Translation  
My Lord, Jehovah, I thank You  
You healed all my diseases  
I will sing praises to You



O my mother, You gave birth to me  
I will sing praises to You

My neighbours have abandoned me  
My friends have all gone away  
But since I still have the Lord  
I will sing praises to Him

My Saviour hold me tightly  
Do not turn your back on me  
O hold on to me  
Do not turn your back on me

Let us sing His praise  
I will sing praises to Him



### First Reading

Jeremiah 17. 7-8

read by the Reverend Prebendary Brian Leathard  
Co-ordinator of the London-Berlin-Brandenburg Link

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.



### Waves of Story

led by Sheenagh Burrell, ALMA Communications Officer, John Tasker, ALMA Parish Twinning Officer, the Reverend Domingos Ramos Muanga and Chih-I Lai.  
(to read the 'Waves' see separate file)



At the end of the stories

ALMA is ten now. We thank God for the first ten years and look forward to being surprised by the next ten.

God is good	Deus é bom,
All the time	Todo tempo.
All the time	Todo tempo,
God is good	Deus é bom.

Stand

Hymn

Twyford Church of England High School Gospel Choir introduce the hymn by singing verse 4 and the chorus in Kikongo, one of the languages spoken in Angola and elsewhere in Africa.

Na tadi zulu, bu diakidi duma.  
Ye mbandanu, bu zeti tendana,  
Ye mvula, bu zipasumuka beni,  
Ye mpezomo, bu zeti vezima.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Chorus

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art.



The congregation join in

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:



Chorus

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art.



O Mfumu eto, bu tutoma tala,  
Bilekwa biena mu kayengele,  
Bitatasana ye bisalasana  
Zazonso ntangu zi biavangulwa.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Chorus

And when I think that God His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.



Chorus

Na tadi zulu, bu diakidi duma.  
Ye mbandanu, bu zeti tendana,  
Ye mvula, bu zipasumuka beni,  
Ye mpezomo, bu zeti vezima.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home—what joy shall fill my heart!  
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And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Chorus

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art.

Words and Music Stuart K. Hine

Sit

## Second Reading

Revelation 22. 1 & 2

read in Portuguese by the Right Reverend Andre Soares, Bishop of Angola

During the reading the Rivers of Prayer are 'rippled' in the aisles.

E mostrou-me o rio puro da água da vida, claro como cristal, que procedia do trono de Deus e do Cordeiro. No meio da sua praça e de uma e da outra banda do rio, estava a árvore da vida, que produz doze frutos, dando seu fruto de mes em mes, e as folhas da árvore são para a saúde das nações.



Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river, is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

## Pause for Reflection

The ALMA Bishops



## Prayers of Intercession

led by Helen Reichstein and Fola Faleti

The prayers begin and end with the chant. The choir sings and the congregation repeat

'Ouve Senhor, eu estou clamando'

(Hear me O Lord, O hear my crying; in your mercy give ear to me and answer)





Ou - ve, Se - nhor,                    eu es - tou cla - man - do,  
Mer - ci - ful Lord,                in your lov - ing kind - ness



tem ple - da - de de mim e me res - pon - de.  
hear our prayer, lis - ten to our in - ter - ces - sion.

We pray for the worldwide church giving thanks for all the many links that exist between parishes and people. In particular we pray for the Anglican Communion. By the power of the Spirit may we grow in the love of Christ to the glory of God the Father.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
may our roots ever draw from God's stream.

We give thanks for ten years of ALMA, acknowledging places of pain, struggle and disappointment as well as places of joy, delight and excitement. We commit to God our hopes and fears as we walk the next chapter.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
may our roots ever draw from God's stream.

We pray for all those throughout the world whose lives have been affected by flood or drought. We pray for governments and relief agencies, for those with power to affect change and those who offer hope in places of struggle.

We ask for God's strength, wisdom and courage that we may be good stewards of the natural world and its resources.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
may our roots ever draw from God's stream.

In a few moments of quiet we pray for the parishes of which we are part and the parishes and people with which we are linked across the world

Silence

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
may our roots ever draw from God's stream.

Let us now pray together,  
each in our own language,  
the prayer Jesus taught us  
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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

The chant is repeated.

During the singing, rivers of cloth are taken to the West End and placed to 'flow' from the font.



Renewal of Baptism Vows and Signing of ALMA Covenant

The Canon Pastor introduces the renewal of baptism vows and the signing of the ALMA covenant.

Stand

Water is carried from the font to the dome as the Canon Pastor prays

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,  
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the deep waters of death  
you brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
Through him dark death has been destroyed  
and radiant life is everywhere restored.  
In baptism, you call us out of darkness into your marvellous light.  
May our lives reflect your glory  
and our lips repeat the endless song.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever.



The Canon Pastor addresses the congregation  
In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Let us now declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

The Bishops sprinkle the congregation with water.

The Canon Pastor says:

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all who have been baptized into your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Sit

The Bishops gather at the table with Peter Southwood, the London Diocesan ALMA Link Officer, to sign the covenant, a copy of which is printed over the page for personal reflection while the covenant is signed.



**ALMA**  
**AGREEMENT FOR THE FORMAL CONTINUATION OF THE**  
**ANGOLA, LONDON AND MOZAMBIQUE ASSOCIATION**

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you.  
In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy  
because of your partnership in the gospel  
from the first day until now, being confident of this,  
that he who began a good work in you  
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"  
(Philippians 1: 2-6 NIV)

Our partnership known as ALMA began as a result of the Covenant signed on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1985 by the bishops of Lebombo, London and Niassa. In 2003 the Diocese of Angola was formed and this Agreement recognises the benefits of partnership between these four dioceses over the last ten years and sets out our shared purpose and aims for the future.

These ten years have been ones of joy and pain, progress and setback, breakthrough and frustration in our journey with Christ. Amidst it all we have experienced Christ's transforming power, as the Berta Sengulane Health Centre bears witness, to bring healing and life out of suffering and death. Thereby God brings into being that which did not exist. Visitors from London to our Link Dioceses have sometimes seen their lives changed for ever and schools in Africa now exist or are being built as testimony to those facts. The generosity of churches and individuals on both continents has manifested itself as their God-given gifts and resources have allowed; in one place a new mission and ministry programme, in another the spiritual rhythms and open hospitality of Africa. The challenges remain: of differing cultures that do not always understand each other; and of values that seem at times too rooted in the worldly kingdom rather than the Kingdom of God.

ALMA means "soul" in Portuguese. So, as in the original Covenant, our continuing purpose is for the soul of our partnership to be a commitment to mutual support in prayer and worship, in ministry and mission. Each diocese is a partner in the Gospel of Christ contributing according to its ability and having needs which the others will seek to meet.

Our aims are to develop the partnership:

- a) *Through prayer:* our parish and diocesan bodies will base and enrich the work of ALMA in local creativity and prayer
- b) *Through communication:* continuing to build a lay ministry of Link Officers, Communications and Twinning Officers, Catechists and Parish representatives (as appropriate) to support ALMA activities and ensure each diocese and twin parish and school shares information on its aims, priorities, joys and difficulties
- c) *Through visits between dioceses:* by bishops, clergy and lay representatives, especially to support parish and school twinning
- d) *Through projects:* to contribute to the education and health needs of our Link dioceses and the theological education and training of clergy and lay ministers.

In equipping our ministry for tasks relevant to today's world we will have regard to the historical, political, economic and social context in which each Diocese exists as part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Over the last decade the interconnectedness of the world has been brought home to us in ways we may not fully have appreciated at the start of our journey.

To be a partner is to be one another's angel

To be a partner is to be one another's keeper



*To be a partner is to create resources for a common future*

In particular, on the positive side, the technological revolution has created possibilities for transforming our communications which still need further improvement. On the reverse side, though, developed and emerging economies' contribution to climate change, which may be affecting the propensity for floods and drought in Angola and Mozambique, require us to give far more urgent attention to environmental issues.

In seeking the harmony of shalom, which is possible only with God, we will continue to be sensitive and active in matters of peace, especially in an effort to enhance a culture of peace in our societies. In particular, our advocacy, which forms a key means to fulfilling our purpose and aims, will be informed by the 6 marks of mission of the Anglican Communion and the Millennium Development Goals for 2015.

Our partnership will be reviewed by our respective diocesan authorities together, including any new Dioceses that may come into being in the interim, within ten years.

Dated this thirteenth day of July in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ, two thousand and eight.

Signed by the Bishops of Angola, Lebombo, London and Niassa.

*Partnership is mutual respect and transparency*

*Partnership is a deep friendship between two people which engages their families and their offspring*

Silence is kept

The Right Reverend Dinis Sengulane, Bishop of Lebombo, invites the congregation to join together in the partnership prayer in English and Portuguese

Partnership Prayer

God our Father,  
the source of all gifts,  
give us humility to receive,  
honesty to ask  
and generosity to give,  
in order to bring each other up  
to your honour and glory.  
We ask this through the merits  
of Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen.

Deus nosso Pai,  
fonte de todos os dons  
concede-nos humildade para receber,  
honestidade para pedir  
e generosidade para dar  
a fim de provermos crescimento mutuo  
para tua gloria e honra.  
Pedimos isto pelos meritos de  
Jesus Cristo nosso Salvador.  
Amen.

Stand as African drums are played.



Hymn

during the hymn a collection will be taken which will be divided between the work of ALMA and St Paul's Cathedral.

God is our strength and refuge,  
Our present help in trouble;  
and we therefore will not fear,  
though the earth should change!  
Though mountains shake and tremble,  
though swirling floods are raging,  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!



There is a flowing river,  
Within God's holy city;  
God is in the midst of her -  
she shall not be moved!  
God's help is swiftly given,  
thrones vanish at his presence -  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!



Come, see the works of our maker,  
learn of his His deeds all powerful;  
wars will cease across the world  
when He shatters the spear!  
Be still and know your creator,  
uplift Him in the nations -  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Words Richard Bewes (b. 1934)      Tune The Dambusters March  
Eric Coates (1881-1957)

Remain standing

The Peace

The Bishop of London says  
We are the Body of Christ.

The ALMA Bishops say  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

Bishops      The peace of the Lord be always with you

People      and also with you.

The Bishop of London says  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

People greet one another and return to their places when the choir begins singing



## The Blessing

The Bishop of London says  
May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water  
welling up to eternal life,  
perfect in you the image of his glory.

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honour all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

## Recessional Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore.

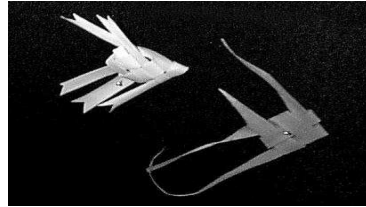
Words Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)  
based on Luke 1. 46-55

Tune Woodlands  
Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)



Organ voluntary: Joie et clarté des Corps Glorieux Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)  
(from Les Corps Glorieux)

Palm fish made by our brothers and sisters in Mozambique are distributed at the West End of the cathedral by members of the Mothers' Union.



Visit the ALMA website at [www.almalink.org](http://www.almalink.org)  
Visit the Diocesan website at [www.london.anglican.org](http://www.london.anglican.org)



In a departure from the Service Sheet, after The Peace, Peter Southwood, ALMA Link Officer, and Sheenagh Burrell, ALMA Communications Officer, were presented with St Mellitus medals for their service to ALMA

