OPENING OF CONGREGATION

THE CHANCELLOR

opens a Congregation of the University

On arrival in the Divinity School, the Honorands pause to sign their names in the Honorary Degrees Book. Meanwhile the rest of the procession continues into the Sheldonian Theatre and the ceremony begins. At the summons of the Bedels, the Honorands walk in procession from the Divinity School into the Theatre.

TRUMPET FANFARE

Interruption: Fanfare for Sir Harrison Birtwistle Solfa Carlie, world première

PRESENTATION OF THE HONORANDS

The persons on whom degrees are to be conferred are presented by the Public Orator in the following order:

DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

The Most Reverend Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori

DOCTORS OF LETTERS

Sir Anish Kapoor Mr Robert Silvers

DOCTORS OF SCIENCE

Professor Jean-Marie Lehn

DOCTOR OF MUSIC

Sir Harrison Birtwistle

THE CHOIR OF MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD O clap your hands together Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

THE MOST REVEREND DR KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI

Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America and seventeen other nations

The Most Reverend Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori, PhD, holds a BS in biology from Stanford University and an MS and PhD in oceanography from Oregon State University. She was a postdoctoral researcher at Oregon State's College of Oceanography and visiting scientist at the National Marine Fisheries Service before electing to read for an MDiv at Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She was ordained in 1994 and became assistant, and later associate, rector at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Corvallis, Oregon, where she was responsible for the Hispanic community and for adult education programmes. She also served as Chaplain with the Benton Hospice Service. In 2000 she was elected Bishop of Nevada and was ordained to the episcopate the following year. Five years later she was elected Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, becoming the first and only female primate in the Anglican Communion. She serves as chief pastor and primate to the Episcopal Church's members in 17 countries and 110 dioceses and is responsible for initiating and developing policy for the Church. She has been vocal about the Episcopal Church's mission priorities, including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, issues of domestic poverty, climate change and environmental concerns, as well as the ongoing need to contextualise the gospel. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Division of Earth and Life Sciences of the US National Academy of Sciences and serves on the boards of a number of ecclesiastical bodies, including the National Council of Churches of Christ in the US and the General Theological Seminary. From 2010 to 2013 she was a member of President Obama's Advisory Council on Neighbourhood and Faith-Based Partnerships. She has held academic posts at the Department of Religious Studies and the Department of Philosophy at Oregon State and has received honorary degrees from a number of institutions, including Berkeley Divinity School.

Haec quae agmen honorandorum hodie ducit prima ex omnibus qui ecclesiam Americanam rexerunt est sexus muliebris, prima in scientia naturali educata. Non enim semper fuit sacerdos; immo ineunte aetate oceanographiae, ut dicitur, studuit. Postea aeronavis regendae artem et didicit et exercendae licentiam accepit. Dicit autem Psalmista, 'Si sumpsero pinnas meas diluculo et habitavero in extremis maris, etiam ibi manus tua deducet me et tenebit me dextera tua.' Ita haec et in marina profunditate et in altis aetheris oris, ut videtur, veritatem quaesivit, Deum repperit. Haud mirum igitur eam saepe in praedicatione adfirmare numen divinum in compagibus animalium subtilissimis et in cunctis rerum naturae partibus sive magnis sive minimis inesse. Docet homines ut bonus vilicus praedia curet ita nos oportere tellurem diligenter tueri; quapropter ut cum inopiam domesticam abolere nititur, ita omnem quaestum improbat qui non sine terrae maris aëris detriment effici possit.

Pastor indefessa, saepius itinera facit quam domi restat. Ecclesia Americana divisa est in partes plus quam centum; quas omnes ipsa visit, id quod nemo e primatibus antea fecerat. Libros quattuor scripsit, episcopos plus quam sexaginta consecravit; tamen inter negotia quamvis onerosa corpus cottidie currendo exercet, et cum otio fruitur (quod raro, ut puto, potest accidere), fit psaltria chordasque digitis numerat. Constat eam in rebus vel arduissimis mentem aequam tranquillamque servare. Multas ecclesiae Anglicanae provincias dissensionibus nonnumquam vehementibus sollicitari, quis est quin sciat? Haec autem voces inter se disputantium clementer auscultat, neglectos attendit, gregem suum ad caelestia regna non aeronave sed fidei et pietatis exemplo dirigit.

Praesento pastorum pastorem, servorum Dei servam, Catharinam Jefferts Schori, feminam reverendissimam, Ecclesiae Americanae episcopum praesidem primatem, ut admittatur honoris causa ad gradum Doctoris in Divinitate. The lady who leads the line of honorands today is both the first woman to have headed the American Episcopal Church and the first scientist. For she was not always a priest, but began her career as an oceanographer. Later she learnt how to fly and acquired her pilot's licence. But in the words of the psalm, 'If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there will thy hand lead me and thy right hand hold me.' Even so she sought for truth, it seems, in the depths of the sea and in the heights of the sky, and found God there. It is small surprise then that her preaching stresses God's presence in complex organic systems and in every part of nature from the greatest to the least. She affirms that we men and women should act as good stewards of the earth entrusted to us, and accordingly she combines her concern for domestic poverty with opposition to development that is environmentally unsustainable.

An indefatigable pastor, she spends the greater part of her time on travel within the church. The Episcopal Church comprises more than a hundred dioceses, and she is the first of its primates to have visited all of them. She has written four books and consecrated more than sixty bishops; and yet however heavy the burden of business she goes running daily, and when she can find the time (which cannot be often) she takes her harp and sweeps her fingers across the strings. She is admired for keeping a level head and a calm presence in even the most trying circumstances. It is common knowledge that many provinces of the Anglican Communion are troubled by disagreements, some of them acute. But she listens to the disputants sympathetically, attends to the forgotten, and guides her flock heavenward not in an aeroplane but through setting an example of faith and devotion.

I present a shepherd of the shepherds, servant of the servants of God, the Most Reverend Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America, to be admitted to the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

ADMISSION BY THE CHANCELLOR

Ovium tuarum custos sapientissima, quae ecclesiam tuam pari lenitate et firmitate gubernas, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis admitto te ad gradum Doctoris in Divinitate honoris causa. Wise guardian of your sheep, who direct your church with mildness and firmness combined, I on my own authority and that of the whole University admit you to the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.