



A Sermon in the Chapel of
PEMBROKE COLLEGE
by Grachia Margarian
on All Saints
Sunday Services

Sunday, 03 November 2024

“CHRISTIAN UNITY FROM ARMENIA
TO THE BRITISH ISLES”

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Links to sources:

<https://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/event/sunday-service-michaelmas-2024>



CHRISTIAN UNITY FROM ARMENIA TO THE BRITISH ISLES

Dear brothers and sisters,

I have come today from the eastern border of Europe, where Christianity meets its limit. However, this land is also where new life began and where Christianity was established as an official religion. It is the land where Noah's ark came to rest after the flood, giving rise to nations around the world. This is where Christianity was adopted, making it the first Christian country, eventually spreading to the far reaches of Europe, including the British Isles. Yes, I come from Armenia.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, housed here in Oxford, tell us that one of the earliest inhabitants of the British Isles hailed from Armenia. From Armenia to the United Kingdom, we share the same values, the same civilization, the same saints, and the same Christ. As I stand here in Oxford, a place that has witnessed many theological debates throughout history, I believe it is essential to form a genuine unity within the Church of Christ, where His spirit and true presence can be felt. One of my essays here in Oxford focused on finding a formula for the unity of the Church. From Armenia to the United Kingdom, we are one family under one Christ. Armenia represents not just a nation but a set of values and a mission that we must carry out together.

For example, Saint Servatius, who was born in Armenia, traveled to the Low Countries out of faith, baptizing what we now know as the Netherlands and Belgium, eventually becoming the first bishop of those lands. Today, we have placed a monument to him in Armenia to highlight our interconnection.

Let us strive to be united in our everyday lives, grounded in our shared heritage, all our saints, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

