



A Service of Remembering

30 October 2022

Welcome

We come today to remember with thankfulness those we have known and loved who have died. We give thanks for all that they have meant to us. We come seeking to learn of God's love and to open our lives to the help and strength that he can give us as we continue on the journey of life without them. We pray for ourselves and all who mourn that they would be comforted.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness who walk in the shadow of death so remember in your kingdom your faithful servants that death may be for them the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints you live and reign one in the perfect union of love now and for ever.

Amen.

As a father cares for his children:

so the Lord cares for those who fear him.

For he himself knows whereof we are made:

he remembers that we are but dust.

Our days are like the grass:

we flourish like a flower of the field.

When the wind goes over it, it is gone,

and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him:

and his righteousness on children's children.

Faithful One

Faithful One so unchanging;

Ageless One, You're my Rock of peace.

Lord of all, I depend on You,

I call out to You again and again,

I call out to You again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble,

You lift me up when I fall down;

All through the storm Your love is the anchor;

My hope is in You alone.

Bible readings

Lamentations 3:17-26, 31-33

I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is. So I say, 'My splendour is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord.' I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.' The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For no one is cast off by the Lord for ever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

John 6:37-40

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.'

Reflection

There is a place by John Bell

There is a place prepared for little children,
those we once lived for, those we deeply mourn,
those who from play, from learning and from laughter
too soon were torn.

There is a place where hands which held ours tightly
now are released beyond all hurt and fear,
healed by that love which also feels our sorrow,
tear after tear.

There is a place where all the lost potential
yields its full promise, finds its lost intent;
silenced no more, young voices echo freely
as they were meant.

There is a place where God will hear our questions,
suffer our anger, share our speechless grief.
gently repair the innocence of loving
and of belief.

Jesus, who bids us be like little children,
shields those our arms are yearning to embrace.
God will ensure that all are reunited;
there is a place.

A time of reflection

If you would like to, write the name of the person you want to remember on the card and place it at the foot of the cross. It is at the cross that we can find healing and peace. You might also like to light a candle.

Music for reflection.

Reading of names.

Loving God, as we remember our loved ones tonight in this place, whom we have already placed in your hands. Continue to enfold them in the arms of your love, in the glorious company of the saints in light.

Prayers

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.

Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief to the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death and by rising again, restored life.

May we then go forward eagerly to meet him, and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In confidence we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's my shepherd

- 1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.
And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.**

- 2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints me head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.
And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.**

- 3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.
And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.**

The blessing

May God give to you and to all those whom you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us always.

Amen