

All Souls Service of Commemoration

November 1st 2020, 3pm



*“Even though I walk through the shadow of
death - I will fear no evil - for you are with
me.”*

(Psalm 23)

**Service of Commemoration for All Souls, 1st November
3pm**

LEADER: Welcome and Introduction

This service offers a time of remembrance and thanksgiving, a time for sorrow and happy memories, and a time to find strength, comfort and hope in God's overwhelming love for us.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the service this year is fully available online as a youtube file. Please click the link below:

<https://youtu.be/pLO1wFte9H0>

This booklet is the order for the service which will take place in church. In church names will be read out in memory of loved ones – in the online version this is replaced by an extended period of silence to candlelight. In church the hymns will not be sung by the congregation but by Sue accompanied by Martin on the organ. Words are included in this booklet for reference only.

REV MARK:

We meet in the presence of God

All who knows our needs, hears our cries,
feels our pain, and heals our wounds.

REV MARK:

Let us pray
Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Words of Comfort

LEADER: Hear these words of comfort which the Lord our God offers to all in sorrow, trouble or distress.

A short silence is kept between each of the readings.

Alyson – First Reading

The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

Exodus 2.23b-25

Shirley – Second Reading

Jesus said 'Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Matthew 11.29,30

Tricia – Third Reading

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39

Lisa – Fourth Reading

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Isaiah 43.2-3a

Hymn: Abide with Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies,
Heaven's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) Music by William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

REV MARK: Old Testament Reading – Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley, ^[a]

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

ALYSON: “A time for thanks” (based on Psalm 136)

Blessing and thanks to God,
Who created our world
And shapes our lives.
God’s love lasts forever.

Thanks be to God,
Who gives us friends and families,
To laugh and cry with us
And show us love each day.
God’s love lasts for ever.

Thanks be to God,
For people who care and help,
Who work for healing
And show us kindness.
God’s love lasts forever.

Thanks be to God,
For faithful love and joyful living,
For good memories
And hope for tomorrow.
God’s love lasts forever.
Amen

JANE: New Testament Reading – Revelation 21:1-6

¹I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain
will be no more, for the first things have passed away.’

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ ⁶Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.’

REV MARK: A reflection

Earlier this year, my grandpa passed away, aged 93. He was for a while in a care home with my nan. My mum was able to go and be with my nan and grandpa in his last moments, but because of Covid restrictions and a long travel to Yorkshire not all of us were able to be present at the funeral service. However I was fortunate in that I could spend some time with my parents, aunts and uncles, in the garden, preparing the service, and talking about memories

I had of my grandpa. He taught me how to play the mouth organ, and how we played together on violin and his favourite instrument, the melodeon.

It was important to me to mark the passing of my grandpa and because I wasn't able to be at the service I wrote a letter to my nan about happy times I had spent with him, including making a model plane (which we flew into a tree).

This year has been a very difficult year for many of us, especially for those of us who have lost a loved one. Sometimes it has not been possible to visit our relatives at the last moments of their life, because of restrictions in hospitals and care homes. At other times we might have found it hard because numbers were limited at a funeral. Or we may have found it difficult because we couldn't have the kind of wake we would have liked after the service – a chance to raise a glass in memory of the person that we loved. When we experience grief, part of it is about that process of letting go of some things, of wanting a sense of completeness or of closure, and that can be especially hard if we haven't been able to participate in some of the ceremonies and rituals which we normally would surrounding a death.

But we can remember that whatever we are going through, Jesus Christ is always with us. The reading we heard from Psalm 23, "The Lord's my Shepherd", says, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley I will fear no evil – for you are with me – your rod and staff they comfort me." This is a time when many of us feel we are walking through the

darkest valley. Death is present all around us in reports on the news. We hear about sickness, and we have anxieties about our health and the health of those we love, now and into the future. In such moments, it can be hard to find hope. But as the psalm reminds us, “surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life – and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.” We have hope of knowing that whatever happens to us in life or in death, we can be in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, with God, for ever. There are green pastures which follow on from the darkest valleys.

Recently in our church Bible readings there have been a lot to do with cataclysmic events – wars, conflicts, signs of the end times. But connected with each of these is a celebration of a wedding feast. We heard from our New Testament reading about a beautiful bride adorned for her husband which represents the people of God coming into the presence of God. In the midst of darkness outside there is always a reminder that the kingdom of heaven, symbolized by a wedding feast celebration, is happening. Those who have passed on, though no longer with us, are present with God already enjoying that feast and one day we will be reunited with them. For us who are left behind and remember, let us not lose heart. Even in the darkest of times, God is with us, and there is a hope to come.

Almighty God, help us when we are in the darkest places, going through the most difficult valleys, and unable to see a reason for hope or celebration, to remember you are always with us, and that the feast in heaven will always be there.

MUSIC: Panis Angelicus by César Franck

*Panis angelicus
Fit panis hominum
Dat panis coelicus
Figuris terminum
O res mirabilis
Manducat dominum
Pauper, pauper
Servus et humilis*

Translation:

May the Bread of Angels
Become bread for mankind;
The Bread of Heaven puts
All foreshadowings to an end;
Oh, thing miraculous!
The body of the Lord will nourish
the poor, the poor,
the servile, and the humble.

ALYSON: *Prayers*

Lord of all, we praise you
for all who have entered into their rest
and reached the promised land where you are seen face
to face.

Give us grace to follow in their footsteps
as they followed in the way of your Son.
Thank you for the memory of those you have called to

yourself:

by each memory, turn our hearts from things seen to things unseen,
and lead us till we come to the eternal rest you have prepared for your people,

Lift from us our burden

And in your power renew us

Creator God,

you love everything you have made
and judge us with infinite mercy and justice.

We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace
to all those who love you.

In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of
new life,

and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who died, rose again, and lives for evermore.

Lift from us our burden.

And in your power renew us

Gracious God,

surround us and all who mourn this day
with your continuing compassion.

Do not let grief overwhelm your children,
or turn them against you.

When grief seems never-ending,

take us one step at a time

along the pilgrimage of death and resurrection.

Lift from us our burden.

And in your power renew us

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate
and dwell in that place,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one
equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; .

Lift from us our burden.

And in your power renew us

Transform us in our suffering that in the pain we bear you
might be for us a fount of life and a spring of hope; through
him who died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

Let us pray that we may know life and hope in Jesus Christ
as we say,

**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.**

**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.**

Act of Commemoration

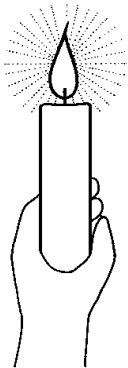
Rev Mark goes to the paschal candle.

REV MARK: We light this candle to remind us that when God the Father raised Jesus from the dead he defeated the power of death, and his light shines in the midst of the darkness of this world.

Leader lights the Easter Candle as a sign of the hope of resurrection.

REV MARK: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Revd Mark reads out the list of names of those being remembered.



REV MARK: Father, into your hands we give you back our loved ones.

Lights are dimmed for a few moments of silent reflection.

MUSIC: “Meditation from Thais” by Jules Massenet
(Violin: Rev Mark; Pianist: Martin)

Please stand for the *Blessing and Dismissal*

REV MARK:

Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God.

All Amen. Thanks be to God.

REV MARK:

May the Lord bless us and keep us, may the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us, may the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

May God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always.

All Amen.

MUSIC: “Nimrod” by Edward Elgar
(Organist: Martin)

Thank you for joining this service, online or in church.

