

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

A SERVICE TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

— 2 November 2023 —



Photo by Zinko Hein on Unsplash

"Give sorrow words;
the grief that does not speak
whispers the o'er-fraught heart and bids it break."
— William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

WELCOME

We meet to remember before God our loved ones, those who have died long ago or more recently, whom we never forget. We come to give thanks for all that they have meant to us. We also mourn those who are known only to God. Together we pray for ourselves and all who mourn that together we would be comforted.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we praise your name for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you: for the example of their lives, the life and grace you gave them, and the peace in which they rest. 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, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

FIRST READING: Wisdom of Solomon 3.1 - 9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 130

- I Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; ◆ let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, ♦
 O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you, ♦ so that you shall be feared.

All My soul waits for the Lord

- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; ♦ in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning, ◆ more than the night watch for the morning.

All My soul waits for the Lord

- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, ◆ for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption ♦ and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

All My soul waits for the Lord Space for quiet reflection

MUSIC: Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, Whose day is near
Wait for the Lord, Keep watch, take heart!
Prepare the way for the Lord
Make a straight path for Him
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed
All the Earth will see the Lord
Rejoice in the Lord always
He is at hand
Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord.

'Wait for the Lord' Composed and sung by the Taizé Community

PRAYERS

In peace, let us pray:

Have mercy, O Lord, upon us, as we have put our hope in you.

Lord, have mercy.

Show us the path of life, for in your presence is joy.

Lord, have mercy.

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

Lord, have mercy.

Comfort the lonely, and those who wait and watch with the dying.

Lord, have mercy.

Heal the sick in body and mind, and comfort those who are anxious and afraid.

Lord, have mercy.

Provide for the homeless, the hungry and the oppressed.

Lord, have mercy.

Have pity on prisoners and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

Lord, have mercy.

Keep from trouble all those who trust in you and forget not the poor for ever.

Lord, have mercy.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: John 6:37 - 40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Here ends the second reading.

Space for quiet reflection

MUSIC: I am the Resurrection and the Life

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

> Composer: William Croft, Public Domain, Sung by St Martin's Voices

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We name before God and in our hearts all those we know but see no longer. O merciful Father, hear us as we remember those whom we have trusted to your love:

Chief Evans Adenekan Elise El Haddad David Lukasi Chief Mrs M. A. Adenekan **Andrew Elvis** Deborah Lukasi Esther Adim Vittorio Mancuso Nelly Epo Sandra Mandell Jonathan Adim Rogelio Fabian Saturnino Fabian Josiah Adim Ulrike Marcher-Burger Bertha Amah Kathie Fisher Elizabeth Monk

Kingley Amah Tony Freeman Frieda Mukanyangezi
Millicent Osei Badu Alfred Frimpong-Asubonteng Phoebe Mukarwambali
Brenda Barleycorn Costanza Giorda & Giuseppe Beatrice Nakubaale
Marie Bessemans Gabbiano Godfrey Nakubaale
Clifford Bradbury Marc Hérault Collin Nimmons

Hilda Bradbury Margaret Hirons Nonna Matilde de Gunto Nigro John Boeren Ida & Algy Hoskins Godfrey Njugala

William Bolger Michelle Jacobsen Atakora Nyamekye

Ethel Burke Moses Kabanya Vero Obakpolo-Joseph

Eric Burke James Kajoba Kyambadde Isaac Obakpolo Nadjia Cantacuzene Lavinia de Kergorlay Amanda Ochieng

Chris Connolly & Maureen John Patrick Kirby Alice Elizabeth Omondi

Connolly Elizabeth Claire Kneeshaw Dick Ovey

Jef & Paulina Cordeel-Dhondt Margaret Knightbridge Sir Dick & Janine Pantlin

Gaston, Maria and Jeannine John Kwame Kyere Panagiotis Petridis

Cordeel Br. Armand Lammineur Allen Pirro

Claire Craddock Alick & Maisie LeJeune Christian Pollet
Albert Cretskens Charles LeJeune Serge Pollet

Georges Demeur Maria Teresa Lo Presti Connie Quimby

Devasahayam Ratnapandian Ashogan Sundram Ethel Ubah
Margaret Reucroft Israël Sibomana James Ubah
Steve Reucroft Anthony Simon Japhet Ubah
Maria-Emma Rojas June Smith Victoria Ubah

Judith SansonMargaret Adele StokesArthur VandenstraetenEleanor Jane SayersRichard Meyric TankHortense Wijgaerts

John Sayers Jawahar Thomas Cicely & William Wheeldon

Kathleen Searle Ken Thomas Valerie Wilkinson

Sue & Chris Sheard Amaku Ubah Gregory Thomas Woods

Diana Zulu-Sabi

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, we remember before God

HM the Queen Elisabeth II Mr François-Marie Jacobs Mr. Daniel Ellis
HRH Prince Philip Mrs Denise More-Thys & Mr. Jean-Marie
Cdt Fernand Delcourt Harry More Vanwelkenhuyzen
Mr Ivan Brogniez Mr Eric Johnson & Mr Jean Martial
Mr Victor Emmanuel Monnette Johnson Mrs. Octavie Bove

Rasquin Mr Peter Ivan Pallett Mr. Harold Moffatt & Mrs.

Mr François Mr Roger Ellis Marieka Uitfries

Roberti-Lintermans Mr Léon Rubin

Angélique, Augustin, Awa, Beatrice and her family, Bernard, Calixte, Danye, Frédéric, Mano, Maru,
Papanya, Philippe, Pierre, Stewart, Wofa, Xavier
For losses of pregnancy and of children
Those who are known to God alone

God of compassion, we pray that you will enfold these your children in the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and in the glorious company of the saints. Grant to us to trust you not for ourselves alone, but for those also whom we love and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death; that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord from the dead, so may we trust your love to give eternal life to all who believe in him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, in the language or version that is our own, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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.

MUSIC: 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) as arranged in the Cavell Mass by David Mitchell, performed and recorded at Holy Trinity Brussels

BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

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 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**.

A candle is lit from the Paschal candle and held.

The Lord is my light and my salvation:

my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you and also with you.

Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the comfort and peace of God be yours.

May the light and joy of God be yours, in this world and the next.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

The light is carried into the side chapel. The service ends.

ACT TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

You are welcome to remain in this space for as long as you like and as an act of remembrance, to light a candle in the side chapel.

Material in this service is drawn from a variety of sources, including:

- 'Common Worship: Pastoral Services', ©The Archbishop's Council http://www.churchofengland.org/media/1174624/cw%20pastoral%20services%20funeral%20web.pdf
- 'The Promise of His Glory', material from which can be found on the Oremus web-site http://www.oremus.org/liturgy/pohg/s2.html
- The Funeral Service resources of the Church in Wales http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/frb02-en.doc
- Inspired by 'Alternative Pastoral Prayers' by Tess Ward @Canterbury Press 2012