

PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

A Service for All Souls



*'The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.'*

Deuteronomy 33.27

Christ Church

Sunday 1 November 2020, 4pm

Welcome to our annual service for All Souls.

The service offers an opportunity to remember with thanks those whom we love but see no longer. As we hold their memories before God, we thank him for all that they have meant to us; and we rejoice that the Christian faith assures us that our loved ones rest safe in his everlasting arms.

Choir Introit

Within our darkest night (Taizé chant)

Within our darkest night
you kindle the fire
that never dies away,
that never dies away.

Welcome

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised by the glory of the Father, we welcome you; grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

We meet this day to remember our loved ones who have passed through the valley of the shadow of death; to renew our faith and trust in God, to seek his grace, and to pray that we may know his love, and the hope he gives us, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Hymn

Sung by the choir.

Be still, my soul: the Lord is at your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain.
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend,
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
To guide the future, as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord:
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Reading

A first scripture reading precedes the Psalm.

Isaiah 40.27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 23

Sung by the choir to the setting by Richard Coulson.

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
and leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I fear no evil; for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Poem

Where will I see you later?

Where will I see you later?
Where will I see you later
now that you're somewhere elsewhere?
It's so dark on this stair,
above, stars are not there;
as I speak the assuagement of this All Souls Day prayer
...Where will I see you later?

Where can I see you later
now that you've not really left?
Yet, your absence like theft,
and this rent mortal cleft
means that I'll muddle on in these depths of bereft...
...Where can I see you later?

I'm relying on seeing you later,
I hope that you're travelling light.
So before I take flight
to prepare I just might
do something defiant like flying a kite...
Keep a place, I'll be seeing you later.

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Anthem

I heard a voice from heaven (John Goss)

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,
"Write: 'From henceforth, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord'.
Even so, saith the Spirit: for they rest from their labours."

Revelation 14.13

Reading

A second scripture reading precedes the address.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Address

Pie Jesu

Sung by Polly Jordan to the setting by Gabriel Fauré.

Pie Jesu Domine, Dona eis requiem, Dona eis requiem sempiternam

Merciful Lord Jesus, Give them rest, Give them eternal rest

Act of Remembrance

Let us pray.

Father of all, by whose mercy and grace your children remain in everlasting light and peace; we remember with thanksgiving those whom we love but see no longer; including ...

The names of those to be remembered are read aloud and then a short silence is kept.

The lights will be dimmed. You are invited to light your candle to commemorate those we remember today (perhaps as their name is read out). Please place the candle on the ledge of the pew in front of you, where it can remain lit until the end of the service. You are then most welcome to take the votive candle and glass holder home with you.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:

and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Prayers

O God our Maker,
we give you thanks for the gift of our earthly life
and the rich blessings you gave to those we remember today.
Thank you for the years we shared with them
and the love we received from them.
For every memory of love and joy,
every memory of life well lived
and every sorrow shared with us,
we give thanks.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all consolation,
you pursue us with untiring love
and dispel the shadow of death
with the bright dawn of life.

Look in mercy on those who mourn.
Lead them gently in their grief.
Give them patient faith in times of darkness,
strength to meet the times to come
and courage to leave their loved ones in your care,
confident in your promise of eternal life and peace.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of compassion,
you are tender towards your children
and your mercy is over all your works.
Heal any memories of hurt and failure,
and give us the wisdom and grace to use aright
the time that is left to us here on earth,
to turn to Christ and follow in his steps,
in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

We join our prayers together in the words of the Lord's Prayer.

**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.**

Hymn

Sung by the choir.

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 strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord 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 now 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!

The Blessing

Support us, O Lord, all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May God in his infinite love and mercy
bring the whole Church,
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,
to a joyful resurrection
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.

Amen.

Closing Organ Voluntary

Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana
Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)

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