

Sunday Morning Resources

The following materials have been prepared to help parishes to respond appropriately at a time of national mourning.

These resources include:

- A suggested order of service
- A short homily written by The Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend Stephen Conway

The suggested order of service has been supplied by the Rev'd Canon Dr Jim Garrard, Canon Residentiary at Ely Cathedral. Not everything will be applicable in every parish situation, and national Coronavirus guidance must be followed, but is intended as a starting point in parishes. You should refer to the Church of England website (<https://www.churchofengland.org/>) for guidance and advice. It is already clear that books of condolence are not being allowed but do make use of the online condolence form on the Church of England website.

Some possible prayers, readings and hymns

- John Donne – Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening † (see below)
 - Psalm 23 *
 - Psalm 121 †
 - Ecclesiastes 12.1-7 †
 - Revelation 7.9-17 †
 - Revelation 21.1-6 *
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- All my hope on God is founded
 - God that madest earth and heaven
 - Immortal, invisible, God only wise †
 - thou who camest from above
 - Praise, my soul, the King of heaven } these are the two hymns named among Her Majesty's
 - The Lord's my shepherd } 10 favourite pieces of music
 - The strife is o'er *

* used at the funeral of King George VI

† used at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

Prayers

Prayers from the 1928 Burial Service: †

e.g. O Father of all, we pray to thee for those whom we love, but see no longer...

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort...

O heavenly Father, who in thy Son Jesus Christ, hast given us a true faith...

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered; Accept our prayers on behalf of the soul of thy servant departed, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity; We give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants, who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labours. And we beseech thee, that we, with all those who are departed in the true faith of thy holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Almighty God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, who by a voice from heaven didst proclaim, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; Multiply, we beseech thee, to those who rest in Jesus, the manifold blessings of thy love, that the good work which thou didst begin in them may be perfected unto the day of Jesus Christ. And of thy mercy, O heavenly Father, vouchsafe that we, who now serve thee here on earth, may at last, together with them, be found meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; for the sake of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and ever-living God, we yield unto thee most high praise and hearty thanks, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all thy saints, who have been the choice vessels of thy grace, and the lights of the world in their several generations; most humbly beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow the example of their steadfastness in thy faith, and obedience to thy holy commandments, that at the day of the general Resurrection, we, with all those who are of the mystical body of thy Son, may be set on his right hand, and hear that his most joyful voice: Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Grant this, O Father, for the sake of the same, thy Son Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

John Donne – Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening †

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 house, 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: in the habitations of thy majesty and glory, world without end.

Heavenly Father,

We give you thanks for the life and work of Prince Philip;

his great energy and enthusiasm and his immense service to our people and nation.

We pray in particular gratitude for his devotion to duty

and his support and care for Her Majesty The Queen and his family

and all the things which marked his contribution to our national life.

At this time of personal sadness we pray for The Queen and all the Royal family

that you will comfort them in their loss,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Suggested order of service

All stand

The officiant says

Dear Friends in Christ, we are gathered here today in love and sadness as we give thanks for the life of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and to pray for his soul and for The Queen and all the Royal Family. We place before God his outstanding service to this Nation and the Commonwealth. Let us offer thanks to our heavenly Father for his example of duty and commitment, his leadership and wisdom and his faithfulness to God which we have witnessed through his life.

Father in heaven, we give you thanks for your servant Prince Philip. We praise you as we remember his long life and cherish his memory. We offer our gratitude for all he brought to our Commonwealth and Nation and for all whose lives he touched.

We have seen in his devoted service and integrity, an example of service to his fellow men and women. Give us grace to follow his good example so that we may come with him to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory. To him be praise now and for ever. **Amen.**

And so let us pray

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.**

All sit THE FIRST LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 3.1-5,9

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

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; 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 lesson.

All stand HYMN (*The Lord's my shepherd*)

All sit THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21.1-6

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I 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. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And 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; he 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.' And 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.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Here ends the second lesson.

THE SERMON *is read*

All stand HYMN

All sit or kneel PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray

Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted'.
Let us pray for The Queen and all Royal Family, and for their friends.

God of all life,
in the mystery of your eternal purpose
you give and yet you take away.
Surround The Queen, members of the Royal Family
and all those bereaved in their grief.
Give them faith and hope in this dark time,
and strengthen them for the days that lie ahead.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
the resurrection and the life. **Amen.**

Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.
Let us pray for our nation: for those responsible for its good governance
and for those who shape and influence the values by which we live.

Sovereign God,
the defence of those who trust in you
and the strength of those who suffer:
look with mercy on our nation at this time,
and help us to trust in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Give wisdom to those who govern us,
and to all who work in the media
and who influence public opinion;
for we look to him who is our truth and our light,
Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of God'.

Let us pray for the organisations of which Prince Philip was Patron,
and for those whom he served through his charitable work.

Merciful God,
you have compassion on all that you have made
and your whole creation is enfolded in your love:
help us to stand firm for your truth,
to struggle against poverty and oppression,
and to share your love with our neighbour,
that we may be instruments of your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world'.

Let us pray for ourselves,
and for all who mourn the death of loved ones.
Be present, Spirit of the living God,
and renew us in our pain and grief,
so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances
of this fleeting world,
may rest on your eternal changelessness
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life'.

Let us give thanks for the sure hope of eternal life offered to us in Christ.
Blessed are you, O Christ!
In your hand are all our yesterdays and today's;
You are the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega;
all time belongs to you, and all ages;
you hold the keys of life and death,
in hope for all your people;
thanks be to you for the gift of life,
and for the promise of eternal life;
to you be glory and praise,
through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

All stand HYMN

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Faced with the mystery of death, we are drawn to silence. I invite you
to reflect with thanksgiving on the life of Prince Philip,
and to commend him to the mercy and peace of God.

A silence follows

Rest eternal grant to him O Lord:
and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Eternal God yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory.
We thank you for the life and service

of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
whose passing we mourn.

As we honour his memory and commend him to your care,
be with our nation in its loss,
and help us to be faithful to your royal call to service;
through Jesus Christ who died for us,
and now lives in your eternal and glorious kingdom.

Amen.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal
covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

**God save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us;
God save the Queen.**

Homily by the Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend Stephen Conway

We gather today in love and sadness, in sorrow and great thanksgiving, as – with our Nation, and the wider Commonwealth, but above all with Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family – we mourn the passing of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. We remember someone who was a great public figure, but was also a husband of many decades, a father, grand-father, great-grandfather. Today marks both public mourning and private grief, and the recognition of a long and full life.

As we have heard already, we give thanks for a life lived out in duty and service. These are words and concepts which can feel rather old-fashioned, belonging perhaps to an earlier generation, but they are of great value, and were so wholly exemplified in the way the Duke of Edinburgh lived. Most of us will be able to picture a state occasion or a royal visit, as he walked upright and stood alongside Her Majesty. Comparatively recently and remarkably, we might recall the way in which he – even then an old man – stood straight and dignified in the rain as the royal barge made its way down the Thames on the occasion of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

And we might reflect on the way in which his example of civic responsibility and character-formation have inspired so many thousands of young people through the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. Maybe some of you, or your children or grandchildren, have participated in that, and learnt skills of leadership and teamwork, of public service and endurance, the value of perseverance and of putting others' needs first. As we give thanks for The Duke of Edinburgh's life, we are giving thanks for the ways in which he inhabited those virtues, and encouraged others to develop them for the greater good of the whole of society, and across the generations. That is part of the legacy for which we give thanks today, and so too we recall the many other charities and organisations to which he dedicated his attention and patronage.

The first reading we heard was from the Wisdom of Solomon, from the part of the Bible known as the Apocrypha, which sits between the Old and New Testaments. The book begins with the appeal

“Love righteousness, you rulers of the earth,
think of the Lord in goodness
and seek him in sincerity of heart;” (Wisd 1:1)

For the writer, righteousness goes with seeking wisdom. Lives are lived well when they are lived in the knowledge and fear of God. The search for Wisdom is the search for understanding and right judgement, for justice and peace. The writer draws a contrast between the ‘ungodly’ who think that how we live does not matter, because ‘short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end’ (Wisd 2:1) and the righteous, whose souls are in the hand of God, and their hope full of immortality. There is the promise that “Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love” (Wisd 3:9).

This theme of death overcome, and of God and his faithful dwelling together, is expressed most beautifully and powerfully in the passage from Revelation, from the very end of the Bible. St John the Divine, in exile on the island of Patmos in his old age, has received visions of the glorious heavenly worship, and also of the torments of the end time. Then he sees a new heaven and new earth, all things made new, and the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. This passage, with its great promise of all suffering, sorrow and death overcome, is often read at funerals, and on occasions such as today. It promises that death is not the end, because all things are held together in Christ, who is Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Both these readings point us forwards – to the promise of ‘hope full of immortality’, to the promise of everything made new in Christ. As we gather in sorrow, as we give thanks for Prince Philip’s life and for all that he has given in the course of it, we do so not merely looking backwards at what has been, but also looking forwards to what will be. The great promise of the Christian faith is that all things hold together in Christ, who makes all things new. Because God raised Christ from the dead, the pain we might experience, or the sorrow we know as we mourn, do not have the last word. Because God raised Christ from the dead, we can trust that death is not the end – not for Prince Philip, for any of our own departed loved ones, and not for any of us.

The Christian hope is full of immortality, of the promise of eternal life in the risen Christ. And because we live in the light of that promise, we are free to be honest about our own mortality, and so to ask for grace to use our lives well – in duty and service others. This recognition is expressed by the seventeenth-century poet and preacher, John Donne, as he reminds his hearers

‘Any man’s death diminishes me. Therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.’

Facing mortality that honestly enables Donne to give expression to that vision of Revelation, to that hope of immortality, in a prayer that seeks eternal life dwelling with God, and which was used at the funeral of Her Late Majesty the Queen Mother, and with which I close:

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 house, were 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; in the habitations of thy majesty and glory, world without end. Amen.