

Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance



13 November 2022

4.00pm

Order of Service

Welcome

Hymn O Lord My God, When I In Awesome Wonder

We meet this afternoon to remember our loved ones, to pray together, and to renew our trust in God. In the city of God, night shall be no more. The people of God need no light of lamp or sun. For the Lord God will be their light and he will reign forever and ever.

Opening Prayer

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 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

Hymn Tell Out My Soul, The Greatness Of The Lord

Reading John 6:16-24

Message For Time and Eternity

Prayers of Thanksgiving

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of this hour into the dawn of new life. Eternal God and Father, we praise you that you have made people to share life together and to reflect your glory in the world. We thank you now for those whom we come to remember today, for all that we saw of your goodness and love in their lives and for all that they have meant to us. As we journey with the loss of those, we love may we do so in the company of Jesus, who came to share our life that we might share the life of eternity. To him be glory with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen

I often speak with those who in their grief are sorry for things that were thought, said and done or not done during the last weeks, days and hours of our loved ones life.

Let us take the opportunity to offer these concerns into God's hands so that we can know his life and freedom in our lives.

Let us say together

Loving God, in the security of quiet prayer we confess to you that we have not lived up to the reasonable expectations of others; we have fallen short of our own standards, and we are far from being all that You would have us to be. In the name of Jesus Christ who welcomed sinners and lifted up the downcast, we ask you to forgive us for what we have done and refresh our faith in your willingness to accept us, help us enjoy our standing as your much-loved children, and enable us to live lives in which you can take delight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

God has assured us that if we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

The Act of Remembrance

Therefore in a state of grace, we come before Almighty God and remember those we love but see no longer.

We remember them by name...

[Names are either spoken by the Minister or called out from the congregation]

Let us say together

Grant to them Lord Your eternal rest and let Your perpetual light shine upon them.

The lighting of a candle is a token of the love which has shone from our loved ones into our lives; we light a candle to their memory.

We remain in silence for a few moments.

An opportunity is given for brief memories of our loved ones to be shared.

Even though they have gone before us

All - They will always be part of us

Despite the pain and grief of losing them

All - We will strive to live in hope

Though we come alone to honour their life

All - Together we stand and say goodbye

From our time of meeting until the end of time

All - We will always love them

Father, we come before you today having walked through the valley of suffering. We are comforted by the fact that you personally know the pain of loss, as your Son also died, so we can be real about our pain. Help us come to terms with our loss, and accept that so many things are unexplainable. We pray that you will now transform our grief into Joy.

Amen

Hymn To God Be The Glory Great Things He Has Done

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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

Lord God, as we travel into the future, not knowing what is to come, be with us in our loneliness, and guide us in all we do. When the clouds are dark around us, let your light illuminate our path; when our heart is heavy with despair, lift it by your grace; when our tears of sorrow are flowing, dry them with your love. Be ever near us, and when it is our time to be called home, gently lead us and re-unite us with those we love, now and ever more.

Amen

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. And the blessing of the God almighty, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen

You are welcome to stay for refreshments in the Christian Centre after the service