



**A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance
for those who have died**



Sunday 1st November, 4pm

In church we have lit a candle for each loved one we remember today. If you are joining us from home, you may like to light a candle in memory of those whom you love but see no longer.

WELCOME

PRAYER

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 too journey towards death
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.**

MUSIC: Lord of all hopefulness

READING: Isaiah 43:1-3

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
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.

PSALM 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**2 My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.

**4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

5 The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

**6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.**

7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.

**8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.**

READING: Revelation 21 v 1-7

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. To the thirsty I will give water as a

gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

SERMON

MUSIC – Be Still My Soul

PRAYERS

Almighty God, we thank you for coming to us in human form in your Son Jesus Christ. We give thanks for His life, and the insights He gave us into the nature of the Kingdom of God. We thank you for His sacrifice, His death on the Cross for our redemption, and His resurrection, giving us grace to receive eternal life.

Hear us, risen Lord

Our resurrection and our life

We give thanks for all those we have loved and see no longer, and our families from years ago beyond our knowledge, whose lives have shaped and moulded our own. We remember all the ways they have loved us, helped us, taught us, wept and laughed with us. We pray that we may help and encourage our own families and friends and be good influences on them in our time.

Hear us, risen Lord

Our resurrection and our life

As we in this country mourn the death of so many people , due to the effects of the virus epidemic on our society, and we begin to plan for the future , we ask for guidance from Holy Wisdom to help us make a fairer and more equitable society where the disadvantaged, hungry and homeless are properly cared for

Hear us, risen Lord

Our resurrection and our life

Comfort those who mourn the death of loved ones today. Bless them with the faith of the resurrection and everlasting life. Help us to care for and support them in their grief and help them to find hope in the knowledge that the departed are at peace in God' heavenly kingdom.

May the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

Hear us, risen Lord

Our resurrection and our life

We join our prayers with those of all the saints, as we pray together the Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

POEM: Ordinary Saints

The ordinary saints, the ones we know,
Our too-familiar family and friends,
When shall we see them? Who can truly show
Whilst still rough-hewn, the God who shapes our ends?
Who will unveil the presence, glimpse the gold
That is and always was our common ground,
Stretch out a finger, feel, along the fold
To find the flaw, to touch and search that wound
From which the light we never noticed fell
Into our lives? Remember how we turned
To look at them, and they looked back? That full-
-eyed love unserved us, and we turned around,
Unready for the wrench and reach of grace.
But one day we will see them face to face.

Malcolm Guite

PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE

Hear, Lord, the prayers of your people as we remember before you these our brothers and sisters:

If you are able, please stand as the names of loved ones are remembered. The following prayer is used between each group of names:

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Our prayers end with:

Loving God: **According to your promises grant to these and to all who rest in Christ, refreshment, light and peace, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

MUSIC – We sit and listen to ‘A Gaelic Blessing’ by John Rutter

READING: Death is Only an Horizon

We seem to give them back to you, O God,
who first gave them to us, yet as you did not lose them
in giving, so do we not lose them by their return.
Not as the world gives do you give, O Lover of souls.
What you give, you take not away,
for what is yours is ours also, if we belong to you.
And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is but an
horizon, and an horizon is nothing but the limit of our sight.
Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further.
Cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly;
Draw us closer to yourself that we may know ourselves
to be closer to our loved ones who are with you.
And while you prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that
happy place; that where you are we may be also, for evermore.
Bede Jarrett O.P.

THE BLESSING

To God who is able to keep us from falling, and lift us from the
valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope, from the
midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy; to God be glory
for ever. And the blessing of God the Almighty, God the Father,
Son and Holy Spirit, remain with you and those you love, now
and forever. Amen.

MUSIC – Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Acknowledgements:

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Bible Readings from NRSV

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