

Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance



14 November 2021

4.00pm

Order of Service

Welcome

Introduction

We stand before the throne of God with countless crowds who have gone before us from every nation and race, tribe and language. We come together to remember our loved ones to give thanks for their lives and to comfort one another in our grief. Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might be to our God forever and ever.

Hymn Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

You have given us a share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

In the darkness of this age your saints proclaim the glory of your kingdom. Chosen as lights of the world, they surround our steps as we journey on towards that eternal city of light where they sing the triumphal song. Open our eyes to behold Your glory and free our tongues to join their song.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God Almighty; just and true are your ways, King of the ages. To you be praise and glory, now and forever.

Amen

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Hymn May The Mind Of Christ My Saviour

Reading John 6:16-21

Message Sustained on the Journey of Grief

Prayers

Father in heaven. We come to you today because we want to thank you for the loved ones you have brought into our lives but who we see no longer because they have died.

We praise you because as we remember them their lives have blessed ours and we cherish their memory.

We thank you that in bearing your image each one has brought light into our lives for we have seen in their friendship reflections of your compassion, in their integrity, demonstrations of your goodness, in their faithfulness, glimpses of your eternal life.

Grant to us those who are left behind the grace to trust in your eternal promises that as we trust in your Son Jesus Christ we might receive the gift of eternal life and join your eternal family in the kingdom of your son.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our lord, who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory.

Amen

Prayer of Confession

Let us say together

Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault, We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us our from darkness to walk as children of light.

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.

Let us say together.

Heavenly Father, we hold before you our special memories and love for our loved ones who have died. Work in all of us now to heal our pain and sadness. Give us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change; the courage to change the things we can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Amen

Hymn I Stand Amazed In The Presence

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