

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN
MELBOURNE, SMISBY
STANTON-BY-BRIDGE & TICKNALL



Sunday 1st November 2020
6.30 pm

*Facebook page for
Melbourne Parish Church*

WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Thank you for joining us for this special service of remembrance. This morning we celebrated 'All Saints' reminding us of our calling to be God's holy people - a chosen race and royal priesthood. Tonight, as we hold our All Souls' Commemoration, we are reminded that God's calling does not end in death. We follow in the footsteps of Jesus and are called to share his death and share his resurrection life. The Kingdom of Heaven he came to proclaim and make known, through him, is a reality both here on earth and onward into eternity. We entrust ourselves and all whom we love but see no longer to his forever open arms of love.

Normally in our service we would light candles as a sign of hope and life. If you have a candle at home you might like to light it before our service begins. Alternatively, you can light a virtual candle online by following this link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/light-candle-remember-someone>

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
who walk in the shadow of death
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.

We Gather to Worship God

We meet today to remember those we have known and loved who have died, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our praises to the Father.

As a father cares for his children:
so the Lord cares for those who fear him.

For he himself knows whereof we are made:
he remembers that we are but dust.

Our days are like the grass:
we flourish like a flower of the field.

When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever
on those who fear him:
and his righteousness on children's children.

Hymn

We sing our first hymn.

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy host above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: CHARLES WESLEY (1707-88) Tune: BLAENWERN William Rowlands (1860-1937)

Prayer

Father in heaven,
we thank you because you made us in your own image
and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit.
We thank you now for our loved ones departed,
and what they meant to each of us.
As we honour their memory,
make us more aware that you are the one
from whom comes every perfect gift,
including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Bible Reading *Revelation 21.1-7*

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.'

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Homily

**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 stay 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 thou 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.**

Words: H F LYTE (1793-1847) Tune: EVENTIDE W H Monk (1823-89)

Prayers of Intercession

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy
you turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.

Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength
to lift us from the darkness of grief
to the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us, conquered death
and by rising again, restored life.

May we then go forward eagerly to meet him,
and after our life on earth
be reunited with our brothers and sisters
where every tear will be wiped away.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In confidence we pray to our Heavenly Father:
**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.**

The Commemoration

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power.
**For you have created all things,
and by your will they have their being.**

The names of our loved ones are read.

This is the will of him that sent me,
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,
and I will raise them up at the last day.

Lord God, creator of all,
you have made us creatures of this earth,
but have also promised us a share in life eternal.
According to your promises,
may all who have died in the peace of Christ
come with your saints to the joys of your kingdom,
where there will be neither sorrow nor pain,
but life everlasting.
Alleluia. Amen.

Final Hymn

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven
feed me now and evermore-
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises, songs and praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

Words: WILLIAM WILLIAMS (1717-91) Tune: CWM RHONDDA John Hughes (1873-1932)

The Conclusion

Prayer of Commending

Grant to us, Lord God,
to trust you not for ourselves alone,
but for those also whom we love
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;
that, as we believe your power
to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,
so may we trust your love
to give eternal life to all created through him;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord bless and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace
all the days of your life;
and the ✠ blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Neither death nor life
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Thank you for taking part in this act of worship.
May God bless you.***