



All Souls' Service
All Hallows Church
5 November 2023

A commemoration of those who have died

Welcome to All Hallows Church, as we come together to remember those who we love but see no longer. This service is known traditionally as All Souls. It is a gentle service where you are invited to sit or stand, but most of all do what is comfortable for you. There will be music, reflection and times of silence and, we hope, an opportunity for us all to come close to God in our remembering.

After the service refreshments will be served and you are very welcome to stay. Clergy members will be on hand to pray with you if you would find this helpful.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

HYMN

We stand to sing the hymn.

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
 He makes me lie in pastures green.
 He leads me by the still, still waters,
 his goodness restores my soul.

Chorus *And I will trust in you alone.*
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.

- 2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
 and he anoints my head with oil,
 and my cup, it overflows with joy,
 I feast on his pure delights.
- 3 And though I walk the darkest path,
 I will not fear the evil one,

for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) based on Psalm 23
Words and Music: © 1996, administered by Kingswaysongs, a division of David C Cook

COLLECT FOR ALL SOULS

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,
grant us, with all the faithful departed,
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion
and glorious resurrection that, in the last day,
when you gather up all things in Christ,
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

BIBLE READING Lamentations 3:17-26, 31-33

- 17 My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is;
18 so I say, 'Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the LORD.'
19 The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!
20 My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.
21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
 his mercies never come to an end;
23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
24 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'
25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.
31 For the Lord will not reject for ever.
32 Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
 according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
33 for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

At the end of the reading the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

HYMN

We stand to sing the hymn.

- 1 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
- 2 We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.
- 3 As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.
- 4 The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.
- 5 So be it, Lord: thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

John Ellerton (1826–1893)

PRAYERS

We sit and kneel for the prayers, during which the names of those to be remembered are read aloud. After the names have been read:

In the rising of the sun and its going down:

All We remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter:
All We remember them.

In the blue sky and in the warmth of summer:
All We remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends:
All We remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart:
All We remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share:
All We remember them.

So long as we live:
All We remember them.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All 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 LIGHTING OF CANDLES

On the altar there is a candle to represent each name which we have heard read out this evening. These candles will now be lit one by one for those you remember with thanksgiving and love this day.

You will all have special thoughts and memories about your loved ones. There may be unspoken words you might wish to share with them silently in your heart.

- ❖ *Words of appreciation for love given and received.*
- ❖ *Words of sorrow or regret for things said or actions used in haste.*
- ❖ *Words of thankfulness for joy and happiness and for laughter shared together.*

When all the candles are lit, the lights in the church will be extinguished and as we sit in the darkness you are invited to spend some time in quiet reflection. As you look at the candles remember Jesus is the light of the world, no darkness can overcome this light.

READING Henry van Dyke: Gone From My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore.

A ship, at my side, spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.

I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all.

She is just as large in mast, hull and spar as she was when she left my side.

And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.

And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,"

there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

And that is dying...

CHOIR ANTHEM Graham Ellis: The Souls of the Righteous

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and there no torment shall touch them. They are in peace.
In the sight of the unwise they seem to die,
but they are in peace and their departure is taken for misery,
and their going from us to be utter destruction. They are in peace.

Requiem aeternam, Dona eis Domine. Et lux perpetua, Luceat, eis.
Tedeceet hymnus in Sion, et tibire detur in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orati onem in meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.
There shall no torment touch them. They are in peace.

BIBLE READING John 6.37-40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

At the end of the reading the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN

We stand to sing the hymn.

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
- 2 Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
- 3 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
- 4 Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 5 Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
- 6 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.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy,
grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

May God give you wisdom.
May God grant you mercy.
May God give you fullness of life
and guide you all your life long
through each day, through the darkness
into his everlasting light.

And the blessing of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you today and always.

All **Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY S. S. Wesley: Choral Song

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Do not hurry (Anonymous)

Do not hurry as you walk with grief;
It does not help the journey.
Walk slowly, pausing often;

Do not be disturbed by memories that come unbidden.
Swiftly forgive unspoken words.
Unfinished conversations will be resolved.

Be gentle with the one who walks with grief.
If it is you, be gentle with yourself.
Swiftly forgive.

Walk slowly, pausing often.
Take time.
Be gentle as you walk with grief.
All will be well.

A Life That Matters (Anonymous)

How will the value of your days be measured?
What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built;
not what you got, but what you gave.
What will matter is not your success, but your significance.
What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.
What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage
or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others
to emulate your example.
What will matter is not your competence, but your character.
What will matter is not how many people you knew,
but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.
What will matter is not your memories,
but the memories that live in those who loved you.
What will matter is how long you will be remembered,
by whom and for what.
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.
It's not a matter of circumstance, but of choice.
Choose to live a life that matters.

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