

Remembering our loved ones

Sunday 2 November 2025

ALL SOULS' DAY



*At any time in the service when we invite you to stand
you are welcome to remain seated if you need to.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of our God is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Christ who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell with us in lowliness,
their pattern and our King;**

**still to the lowly soul
he doth himself impart,
and for his cradle and his throne
chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Christ, we your presence seek;
this blessing now renew
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple meet for you.**

*Words: J. Keble (1792-1866), vv1, 3, W. J. Hall (1793-1861) vv 2, 4 adapt.
Tune: Franconia, melody by William Henry Havergal (1793-1870). Tis 448*

WELCOME

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

This is the day which the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Liturgist:

Life is a journey on many different roads:

But God is always with us.

Sometimes we lift our faces to the sun:

And God is with us.

But then there is the hard journey
through pathways of pain and fears in dark places.

But God is with us.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

We acknowledge that there is in many of us a mourning,
an empty space which once was filled or which we expected to fill,
a sense of ourselves which is no longer there,
a way of being and living which is gone.

Within us is a loss, a grieving for something held precious.

In this moment we claim the dignity of our human journey,
our travelling with grief.

We claim it for ourselves and in compassion we honour it in others.
In faith, we lay it before a loving God.

Priest:

God holds us in love.

God sends the Spirit to comfort us in our grief.

God gathers our scattered lives into a community of love
where loss can be shared and gifts be given

for the easing of our mourning

and the restoration and renewal of our hope. Amen.

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Know what is the hope to which God has called you,
what are the riches of the glorious inheritance in the saints,
and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power in us
who believe.

Ephesians 1:18-19

Loving Creator - source of all life.

You are with us from our first breath until our last.

**Boundless love who knows all the ways of our life's journey
we grieve the passing of loved ones in far off places we
weep from the gulf of separation and the loss of the last
gaze and final touch on loved ones.**

**Soothe our broken selves with the knowing that you are
always there. Heal our hearts as we hold fast to precious
memories. Embrace us in the love which never ends in this
realm and the next. Amen.**¹

ANTHEM

God be in my head

John Rutter

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 21:1-5a (translation Jim Cotter)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**Be still, my soul: for Christ is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.**

**Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

¹ *Elena Philp*

**Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.**

**Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then you shall better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow, calm your fears.
Be still, my soul: for Jesus can restore
the trust and hope that strengthened you before.**

**Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with our God,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

*Words: Katharina von Schlegel (1697-c.1768), tr. Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897)
Tune: Finlandia, from "Finlandia" by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957). TIS 123*

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Luke,
chapter six, beginning at the twentieth verse.



Be a lamp to my feet.

Luke 6:20-31

This is the Gospel of Christ.



Be a light for my path. 2

REFLECTION

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMEMORATION OF THE DEAD

Today we celebrate All Souls' Day,
which follows All Saints' Day.

Today we remember the saints of old
and that we too are encouraged to be saints in our day
as saints in our day:

Who will be blessed this day,
because together we are in the presence of God?
Who will we gather with, for healing and comfort?
Who are those who are going through the ordeals of life?

In the silence of our hearts or out loud let us name these people.

All-loving God,
pour on these your beloved all they need for survival,
renewal and restoration.

Then, dear God, as you blessed the saints of old,
so come to us, your disciples of today,
and remind us of the possibilities that you see in us.

Silent reflection

Speak to us each, in the depths of our souls,
and tell us what you have seen to bless there.

**Speak to us, that we may be lifted up in hope
and take up the task as your saints in the world for this day.**

God of grace today we also remember the saints of old,
we thank you for the saints whom we've known and loved.
It doesn't come easily to us to call them saints,
but you've given your people this name
and invited us into your company
and you know how much we loved them.
For these good companions we name before you in love
and for our love for them, we give you thanks.

The names of those to be remembered are read out.

We give thanks for these people and for all those who have walked with us on our journey of life and faith. Thanks be to God for good and faithful friends and companions.

**They have been lights for our journey
and as palm branches spread on our way,
as cups of living water held to our lips,
as healing oil poured on our heads
and as wise ones for our guiding. Amen.** ³

Silence

CANDLE LIGHTING

*During the singing of "Abide with me"
you are invited to light a candle for a loved one who has died.
This can be done at the front of the aisle or in the Peace Chapel.*

**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), alt. Tune: Eventide, W. H. Monk (1823-1889). TIS 586

³ Dorothy McRae-McMahon's *Prayers for Life's Particular Moments*, pp.67-69, adapt.

READING

All Souls by Jenny Blood.

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.

[The peace of Christ be always with you.]

A ki a koe ano hoki.

[And also with you.]

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN *

**Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art —
thou my best thought, by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou my inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

*Words: Irish, c.8th cent., tr. M. E. Byrne (1880-1931), alt. E. H. Hull (1860-1935)
Tune: Slane (1), Irish traditional melody, harm. D. Evans (1874-1948). Tis 547*

* *During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's.
For electronic giving options:*

1. *to make a fast one-off, or ongoing, donation to St Matthew-in-the-City text **stmatthew** to **818**, or **scan this QR code**:*
2. *use the Tap-n-Go terminal on top of the donation box.*



Please be seated.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Here is the company of heaven, seen and unseen.
Here is the bread and wine to be broken and spilled.
Here is Jesus the Christ, holy rebel and sacred friend.

This is the belonging place.

Here are the people of God, saint and sinner.
Here is the congregation of heaven,
those ready and those not ready to receive.
Here is the story of God, crucified and risen.

This is the belonging place.

Here is the table of life, open and free.
Here is the grace of God, unconditional and without end.
Here is the love of Jesus, given and given again.

This is the belonging place.

Whoever we are and aren't,
whatever we believe and don't,
we belong here – at this table.

We come to this service today with a mix of emotions.
While grateful to gather in this place of faith,
the pain upon the death of our loved one is still with us.
Our pews are a little emptier. Our homes quieter.
Our hearts know well of our loss.
Even as such loss resonates in our lives
we come here, in the company of others,
reassured we are not alone.

Through this meal, past and present connect,
for generation after generation has come to this table
in their joy and in their grief.
God, we pray this feast will lend comfort.
This meal kindle warmth and light in us.
May your Holy Spirit bless this bread and wine.
May the Spirit bless us on our journey through the peaks
and shadow-filled valleys of life.
May the Spirit bring us some peace in our grief.
And may the Spirit, *in* this time and space ,
remind us we are never alone in our difficult spaces.

Sanctus - Benedictus
from Missa Papae Marcelli

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

With his friends,
Jesus shared his last supper before death.
The group recognized the sacred in their gathering
and celebrated their friendship and their community of faith.
One more time, Jesus took the bread and blessed it.
In his breaking of the bread,
Jesus yearned for them to remember his teachings
and their times together.
Whenever you eat this bread, remember me.”
One more time, after supper, Jesus took the cup and blessed it.
In his taking of the cup,
Jesus yearned for his followers to recall their times together.
“Whenever you drink of this cup, remember me.”
As we join together for this meal,
let us remember with gratitude our loved ones
who once ate at this table and many other tables with us.
While they no longer abide with us here today,
help us to know them with us still,
part of all those held within the embrace of our Creator.
May this meal be a gift to each of our souls today.

**Break the bread for freedom. Pour the wine for justice.
Celebrate this meal for all the world,
a meal of faith and hope. God’s love, shared among us.**

Send now your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine
and send your Holy Spirit upon us also
that we might know God's presence in these gifts
and through them be united in prayer and praise
with all those who have gone before us.

**Blessing and honour and glory be Yours,
here and everywhere now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tātou e to tātou Ariki, ka waiata tātou:

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi,

kia tapu tōu Ingoa.

Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.

Kia meatia tāu e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua,

kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

Hōmai ki a mātou āiane

he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

Murua ō mātou hara,

me mātou hoki e muru nei,

i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;

engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:

Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria,

Āke, ake, ake. Āmine.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

for we all share the one bread.

Agnus Dei

from Missa Papae Marcelli

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kāhui a te Atua,
tangohia ēnei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

*All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine;
there are gluten free wafers, just ask the serving priest.*

*There is a chalice for dipping -
simply hold the bread in front of you to signify your choice.*

*If you do not wish to take communion
you may come forward for a blessing.*

*If the stairs are a barrier please sit in the front pews
and communion will be brought to you.*

Te Taro o te Ora. The bread of life.

Te Kapu o te Ora. The cup of salvation.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Pie Jesu (from Requiem in d minor)

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Jesu, the very thought of Thee

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

Now is the hour

Trad. melody attr. Clement Scott (1841-1904)

Arranged by Terence Maskell

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We express our gratitude for this meal, Divine Host.

**We give thanks for the times we spent
with our loved ones here at this table,
we thank you that this table is a reminder of our love for you.
Accompany us into the world with peace in our hearts
and strength in the days to come.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

For those who walked with us, this is a prayer.
For those who have gone ahead, this is a blessing.
For those who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us while they lived,
this is a thanksgiving.
For those who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams,
this is a benediction.
Amen.

FINAL HYMN

**For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who in the world their faith in God confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You were the stranger in the dark of night
with whom they strove to find their one True Light,
to whom you gave God's blessing ever bright:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**They are the folk who gave with Love Divine,
always in service did their wills incline,
forgetting self, they did with glory shine:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**They followed you, cast out the city's gate
killed by the eyes and guns of human hate,
yet trumpets sound their resurrection fête:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And there will dawn a yet more marvellous day,
the saints with laughter sing and dance and play,
the Clown of Glory tumbles in the way:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**With earth restored, with this our fragile star,
in gladness home from pilgrimage afar,
we find in God a joy that none can mar:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897), adapted by J. Cotter
Tune: Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Tis 455*

Deacon:

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

Go, now, in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

EXTROIT

Crossing the Bar

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

MUSIC NOTES

John Rutter displays great sensitivity in writing for amateur musicians, with music that is always beautifully crafted. His *God be in my head*, a well-known text usually associated with Walford Davies, is a short but deeply sincere and beautiful setting of words from the Sarum Primer.

Palestrina's *Missa Papae Marcelli*, published in 1567, is often credited with preserving polyphonic music during the Counter-Reformation, though it may have been composed earlier, possibly in 1555 for Pope Marcellus. Revered for its clarity and beauty, it exemplifies Tridentine ideals. The four-voice version performed here was arranged by Felice Anerio.

Fauré's *Requiem* is unlike most others, omitting much of the traditional text and focusing instead on a gentle view of death as peaceful release. Composed during a period of personal loss, it premiered in 1888 at the Madeleine. The *Pie Jesu*, a serene solo for treble voice, offers an intimate and moving prayer: Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest.

Bairstow's *Jesu, the very thought of thee* was composed in 1925 while he was organist of York Minster. Known for his Yorkshire bluntness—once saying he'd "rather go to the devil" than emigrate—Bairstow nonetheless produced music of great tenderness and devotion.

Now is the Hour is a touching farewell song, rooted in the Māori tune *Po Atarau*, used to farewell soldiers in WWI. English lyrics were later added, and the song gained international fame in the 1940s through Gracie Fields, symbolising parting and remembrance.

Tennyson's *Crossing the Bar* uses rich metaphor to depict death as a ship crossing a sandbar from harbour to open sea, with Christ as the "Pilot" guiding the soul's journey beyond life.

*We invite you to **keep** this copy of the Service and take it home with you to share with another member of your family, or with a friend
OR put in a recycling bin provided at the back of the church.*

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