

The United Benefice of  
Radley, Sunningwell & Kennington



Service of Remembrance  
and Thanksgiving

## The Gathering

### Poem: Walking with grief

Do not hurry  
as you walk with grief;  
it does not help the journey.

Walk slowly, pausing often:  
do not hurry  
as you walk with grief.

Be not disturbed  
by memories that come unbidden.  
Swiftly forgive;  
and let Christ speak for you  
unspoken words.

Unfinished conversation  
will be resolved in Him.  
Be not disturbed.

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.

## The Greeting

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised  
by the glory of the Father, we welcome you:  
grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

*All* **and also with you**

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him! Praise Him!  
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him,  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;  
Dwellers all in time and space,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

### Opening Prayer

We meet this day to remember our loved ones,  
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.

We are gathered together because we have been parted from  
those we love.

*All* **We will not be parted forever.**

We have wept because death is painful and powerful.

*All* **Jesus weeps with us and walks alongside us.**

We live now as people who mourn,

*All* **but also as people who hope in the resurrection.**

We will continue to remember those whom we love.

*All* **In God's love no-one is forgotten.**

No fear in life and no power of death

*All* **can ever separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ.**

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.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

*All* **Blessed be God forever.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Reading**

#### **Mark 4:35-41**

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup> He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; He leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill;  
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

## Reflection

## Hymn

Safe in the shadow of the Lord  
beneath his hand and power,  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
my fortress and my tower.

My hope is set on God alone  
though Satan spreads his snare;  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
to keep me in his care.

From fears and phantoms of the night,  
from foes about my way,  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
by darkness as by day.

His holy angels keep my feet  
secure from every stone;  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
and unafraid go on.

Strong in the everlasting Name,  
and in my Father's care,  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
who hears and answers prayer.

Safe in the shadow of the Lord,  
possessed by love divine,  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
and meet his love with mine.

## **The Commemoration**

Let us remember those whom we love but see no longer.

*As music is played, the names of our loved ones will be read out.  
You are invited to come and light a candle in remembrance of them.  
Silence is kept*

## **Prayer of Commemoration**

Hear us, O merciful Father,  
as we remember in love those  
whom we have placed in your hands.  
Acknowledge, we pray, sheep of your own fold,  
lambs of your own flock,  
sinners of your own redeeming.  
Enfold them in the arms of your mercy,  
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace,  
and in the glorious company of the saints in light.

*All* **Amen.**

The eternal God is your dwelling place,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

*All* **Blessed is the Lord, our strength and our salvation.**

## The Prayers

Lord, hear us.

*All* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*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.**

### Hymn

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.  
*Refrain: Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.  
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

*Refrain*

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!  
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

*Refrain*

## The Conclusion

### The Blessing

The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

The Lord God almighty is our Father: he loves us and tenderly cares for us.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour: he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.

The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us: he will lead us in God's holy way.

To God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: be praise and glory today and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

May God give to you and to all those whom you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

Go from here and shine like the candles which cannot be overcome by darkness.

*All* **With Christ as our light, we will.**

*The minister departs. You are welcome to remain in the church for as long as you wish.*