

Welcome and Introduction.

Neither death nor life, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May the risen Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

God of comfort,

Be with us in our mourning that our hearts may be open to your healing touch, and receive your consolation.

Open our eyes to know your presence as we share together the frailty of our humanity, and the wonder of your love.

May we be strengthened to grow into the likeness of Jesus your Son, our brother, as we walk with him towards your heavenly kingdom.

Amen.

**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,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise with us the God of grace.**

Please remain standing

Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make us perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and those we love now and always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

**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 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,
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,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Widely as His mercy flows.**

Hymn

**The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever.**

Reading:

From St John the apostle's first letter:

Chapter 2: verse 28 – Chapter 3: verse 3

'And now, dear children, continue to live in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. Since we know that God is always right, we know that all who do right are his children.

See how much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children, and we really are! But the people who belong to this world don't know God, so they don't understand that we are his children. Yes, dear friends, we really are God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.'

(New Living Translation)

Sermon

Lord's way side by side and share joys and sorrows, life and death:

All: Lord of life, hear your people.

God of life, we thank you for the assurance that the dead in Christ are in your hands; that they with us are called and destined to eternal life on account of your risen Son Jesus. Do not let our hearts be troubled but reunite us one day with those whom we have known and loved. Lead us all to you through him who is our way, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

We say together:

**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.**

Prayers

Let us pray to our living God, who created us for life and happiness, that he will not give us up to death but give us eternal life.

All: Lord of life, hear your people.

We pray for all those who were dear to us in life, that God, who called them by their names, may be their unending joy:

All: Lord of life, hear your people.

We pray for those who suffered much in life from sickness, injustice or poverty. We rejoice that their sorrow has now come to an end and ask that there may be no end to their happiness:

All: Lord of life, hear your people.

We pray for those who had lonely lives because few cared for them, because they were loners or because others deserted them. We give thanks that they now enjoy the friendship of the saints in heaven:

All: Lord of life, hear your people.

Finally we pray for ourselves, that we may help and support one another on the journey through life, that we may go the

Hymn

**O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.**

**O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.**

**O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.**

We remember ...

The names of those you are remembering today will be read out. (names on pebbles under the cedar tree in the churchyard will be blessed after the service)

Time of reflection.

During the following music there will be a time of remembrance for any other loved ones you wish to remember today.

The Horizon Prayer

We seem to give them back to you, dear God,
who gave them to us.

Yet as you did not lose them in giving, so we
have not lost them by their returning.

Not as the world gives, do you give,
O Lover of Souls!

What you give, you do not take away.
For what is yours is ours always,
if we are yours.

Life is eternal; and love is immortal;
and death is only a horizon;
and a horizon is nothing
but the limit of our sight.

Lift us up, strong Son of God,
that we may see further;
cleanse our eyes,
that we may see more clearly;
draw us closer to yourself
that we may know ourselves nearer to our
beloved who are with you.
And while you prepare a place for us,
prepare us for that happy place
that where they are, and you are,
we too may be;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer by William Penn (1644-
1718)*

The Peace

Peace to you from God who is our Father.
Peace from Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit who gives us life.

The peace of the triune God be always with you.

All: and also with you

**A SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION AND
THANKSGIVING**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2020**

6.00 P.M.

The Revd Judith Lee

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be
comforted"
(Matthew 5 : 4)