

St Andrew's Church Bedford



A Service of
Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Sunday 27th October 2024
at 4.00pm

You are welcome to take this copy of the service home with you if you wish.

Welcome to St Andrew's Church.

God's love and power extend over all creation. Every life, including our own, is precious to God. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life, and that there is new life in Christ after death.

Even those who share such faith find that there is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one. We will each have had our own experiences of their life and death, with different memories and different feelings of love, grief and respect. We express our faith and our feelings today as we remember our loved ones, acknowledge our loss and our sorrow, and reflect on our own mortality.

Those who mourn need support and consolation. Our presence here today is part of that continuing support. You are in the company of others who have recently faced bereavement and volunteers from St Andrew's who have a particular concern for bereavement care.

Please join in as much of the service as you feel comfortable doing so. If you need or prefer to sit as others stand, please do not be embarrassed. If you need someone to light a candle on your behalf when your loved one's name is read out, please ask one of the welcomers and volunteers.

You are always welcome to come to St Andrew's at any time - the church is open daily - to sit here in the church or chapel. A candle stand is available in the chapel. if you would like to light a candle when you visit.

Or join us for services on Sunday at 8.00am, 10.00am or 6.00pm.

You are always welcome here - it is your church.

THE INTRODUCTION

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 **and also with you.**

The Curate welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

BIDDING PRAYER

HYMN

Please stand (as you are able)

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.

POEM 'Remember' by Christina Rossetti

HYMN

Please stand

For all the saints, who from their labours rest;
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed: Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song;
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west:
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest:
sweet is the calm of Paradise the blessed. Alleluia, alleluia!

And lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array
the King of glory passes on his way! Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast
through gates of pearl, streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, alleluia!

PSALM 121

Please sit

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep

your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

BIBLE READING: Revelation 21.1-7

A reading from the Revelation to John

I, John, 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.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

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

THE ADDRESS

The Reverend Joseph Barnes

HYMN

Please stand

I I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down, and drink, and live:
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright:'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till traveling days are done.

Please sit for

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

*As the name of the person who have come to remember is read,
you are invited to come forward and place a candle on the cross.*

RESPONSE

Hear us, O merciful Father,
as we remember in love those whom we have placed in your hands.
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 Lord God almighty is our Father:

All **he loves us and tenderly cares for us.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:

All **he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.**

The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us:

All **he will lead us in God's holy way.**

To God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

All **be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We use this response:

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so together 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.**

HYMN

Please stand

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you his peace.

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

All **Amen.**

*You are welcome to enjoy the quiet of the Church after the service should you wish,
Then do join us in the Church Centre for refreshments.*

