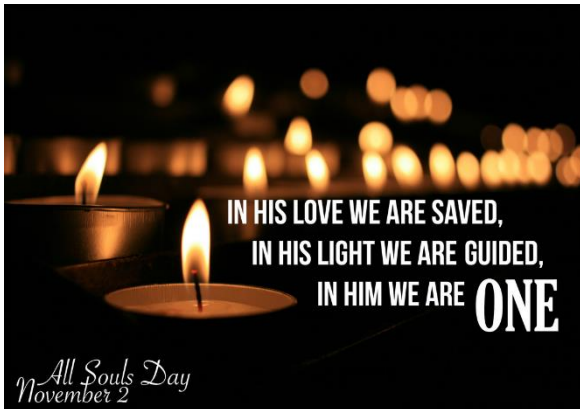


Online service of reflection and commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls



We are pleased to welcome you online tonight. If you can, please have an autumn leaf and candle with you – you will be asked to light the candle during the service.

The gathering

We welcome you to this Service for All Souls' and hope you will find peace in whichever place you are.

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day have been observed for most of the Church's history. On All Saints' Day we remember all those saints who left a name, whose work everyone knows something about: St Peter, St Paul, St Francis ...

Then on All Souls' Day we remember 'the faithful departed': the ordinary people who may not have made a mark on the world, but who made their mark on us, their loved ones.

So this is a time to remember that those who have lived were made for God and were meant for heaven. Tonight we remember them, remember that they are still part of us, and that beyond our horizons, beyond our boundaries, beyond our understanding, they are held in God's embrace.

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We are who we are today because of those whose lives touched ours.

God does not ask us to forget those we have known and loved. But sadness has to be tinged with gratitude for lives that shaped us, for hands that held us, for voices that inspired us, for love that enriched our lives. Believing that those we remember tonight are held in God's embrace, we trust that we will meet them again – in a place where there can never be farewells. So we make our prayers for those who now belong to whatever it is we mean by heaven; first our private prayers, which we make in silence, then a spoken prayer to gather up all our thoughts.

In silence we remember those we love

God of all creation,
who cannot be contained by our boundaries,
by our definitions –
light from beyond the galaxies,
sea without a farther shore –
you are present in every place,
in every moment in history.
You are here and now.
Help us to know tonight
that those from whom we are separated in death –
by its long silence,
its aching absence –
are each of them in your presence;
that beyond our horizons,
beyond our boundaries,
beyond our understanding,
they are held in your embrace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

(Jan Sutch Pickard)

Bible Reading

Romans 8:31-35; 37-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will

hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Music for Reflection & Meditation

Remembrance

At this point, as candles are lit on our altar and names read out, we invite you to, when you are ready, light the candle you have in front of you.

The names of the departed are read out

'Tis only we who grieve
They do not leave
They are not gone
They look upon us still
They walk among the valleys now
They stride upon the hill
Their smile is in the summer sky
Their grace is in the breeze
Their memories whisper in the grass
Their calm is in the trees
Their light is in the winter snow
Their tears are in the rain
Their merriment runs in the brook
Their laughter in the lane
Their gentleness is in the flowers
They sigh in autumn leaves
They do not leave
They are not gone
'Tis only we who grieve

Anon

Prayers of Thanksgiving

God, we never worship alone. We are always surrounded by a great company of those whose life and truth have touched our lives. Make us aware this night that they are with us and we are with them.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our Prayer

We thank you for those who were shining lights in a dark world, and still are: those who in school, office, church or community gave us the values or the faith we still live by.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our Prayer

We thank you for the lights that shone in just one small corner of the world: for mothers and grandmothers, fathers and grandfathers, children, husbands and wives, neighbours, friends and colleagues, who gave us something never to be forgotten and shared a love never to be lost.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our Prayer

Eternal God, you see face to face those whom we remember here. Tell them that we love them, that we miss them, that they are not forgotten. And cheer us with the prospect of a day when there will be no more death or parting, and all shall be well and all shall be one. May they whom we remember tonight be among the first to welcome us to heaven, where, with you in unending love, and in the company of all the saints, we will share the feast of your everlasting family. Until that day, keep us in faith, fill us with hope, deepen us through love: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

May Christ being born
anew in our hearts
bring light, healing and wholeness
to us and all our loved ones
in this world and in heaven.

**And the saints shall tread
The pilgrim road before us,
Behind us, Between us,
Surrounding us
With the unbounded love
Of God our creator.**

(Yvonne Morland)

May God bless us and heal us and hold us in love,
today tonight and for evermore **Amen**

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