

Remembrance Service – 23 November 2017

Song **Ag Críost an Síol (Seán Ó Riada/Sheehan)/Jerusalem, Our Happy Home (Kilmore Carol 16th c.)**

All sing: Ag Críost an síol, ag Críost an fómhar,
In iothlainn Dé go dtugtar sinn.
Ag Críost an mhuir, ag Críost an t-iasc,
I líonta Dé go gcastar sinn
Ó fhás go haois, is ó aois go bás,
Do dhá láimh, a Chríost, anall tharainn.
Ó bhás go críoch, ní críoch ach athfhás,
I bParthas na nGrást go rabhaimid.

*Jerusalem, our happy home
when shall we come to Thee?
When shall our sorrows have an end?
Our joys when shall we see.*

Opening Prayer **Let us stand and pray,**
All say: God of love and consolation,
Be with us as we **remember** those we love
who have departed this life.
Plant seeds of hope in hearts darkened by sadness
Nourish with love all those who are lonely in their grief
Strengthen our faith in the mystery of the resurrection.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction We gather in the dark part of the year to **remember** those who have died. As Christian people we gather with hope in our hearts despite our loss. The seeds of eternal life are planted with the many good things that we do in this life. Our faith is that, in the next phase of our lives, we will blossom and flourish in a new and different way.

Song **In Death There Is No Sorrow (J.S. Bach)**
*In death there is no sorrow, the grave has lost its fears
Our saviour on the morrow, will wipe away all tears.
We shall behold His splendour and see Him glorified
With angels ever render the praise of Him who died.*

Reflection **Prayer of St. Ambrose of Milan**

We have loved them in life,
Let us not abandon them until we have conducted them
By our prayers into the house of the Lord.

Song **May Flights Of Angels (Orlando Gibbons)**

May flights of angels lead you on your way to paradise and heavens eternal day!
May martyrs greet you after deaths' dark night and bid you enter into Zion's light!
May choirs of angels sing you to your rest with once poor Lazarus, now forever
blest.

Reading **Psalm 147**

Praise the LORD!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.
God heals the broken-hearted
and binds up their wounds.

Song **God Is (LaRue/Stevens)**

God is, God is, greater than the fear your facing, greater than the storm that's
raging.
God is, God is with you when you cry, so cry out his name –
'cause God is greater than the pain.

Reading **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**

We want you to be quite certain about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

Song **You Alone (Ian Callanan)**

All sing: You alone will light my darkness.
You alone will still the aching pain
You alone will heal when I cry out your name, only You.

Litany of Remembrance

**Let us remember those who have lived and loved,
those who have left us a blessed heritage.**

Let us remember **the light filled ones** who enkindled our spirits with their influence and the spark of their beliefs.

We remember them

Let us remember **the risk takers**, who faced their fears and took action, who sought justice even though they had to pay the price.

We remember them

Let us remember **the vulnerable ones** who allowed us to care for them, allowed us to be with them in their time of need.

We remember them

Let us remember **the faith-filled ones** who led us by word and example into a deeper relationship with God.

We remember them

Let us remember **the brave ones**, who walked through their struggles with hope, who taught us how to trust.

We remember them

Let us remember **the great lovers of life**, whose humour and enthusiasm lifted our spirits and brought us joy.

We remember them

Let us remember **the nurturers**, who gave us birth physically or spiritually, who gave us support by their caring presence.

We remember them

Song **Dona (Eis) Pacem (Anonymous)**

All sing: Dona eis pacem, dona eis pacem

Reflection **St. Monica, Mother of St Augustine)**

Bury me anywhere; don't worry about that.

I ask you only to remember me at the altar of the Lord, wherever you may be.

Song **Lux Mundi (Trevor Thomson)**

All sing: Lux mundi, tenebras dissipa et corda nostra illumina,
et corda nostra illumina

*(Light of the world, scatter the darkness of night
and shed your light within our hearts)*

Reflection **I did not die young (Christy Kenneally)**

I did not die young
I lived my span of life,
Within your body
and within your love.

There are many
who have lived long lives
and have not been loved as me.

If you would honour me
then speak my name
and number me among your family.

If you would honour me
then strive to live in love
for in that love, I live.

Never, ever doubt
that we will meet again
Until that happy day,
I will grow with God
and wait for you.

Instrumental **Táimse im Chodladh (Traditional)**

'Táimse im' chodhladh is ná dúistear mé
I am asleep and don't waken me'

Song **Abide With Me (Matt Maher)**

All sing: Abide with me, abide with me. Don't let me fall and don't let go.
Walk with me and never leave. Ever close God abide with me.

Intercession Song **Come Bring Your Burdens (Traditional South African)**

All sing: Come bring your burdens to God
Come bring your burdens to God
Come bring your burdens to God for Jesus will never say know.

We pray for those who are grieving at this time: that they will have the support of friends and the consolation of the divine healing touch.

We pray for all the dead especially those who have died in the past year: that they will live in the joy of their eternal reward.

We pray for those carrying heavy burdens of worry and loss: that they will be restored by these comforting words and the gentle music

Song **Grant Them Eternal Rest (Owen Alstott)**

All sing: Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shone upon them.

Reflection **Mechthild of Magdeburg (13th c.)**

Do not fear your death.
For when that moment arrives,
I will draw my breath
and your soul will come to Me
like a needle to a magnet.

Song **Cantata 161 (Johann Sebastian Bach)**

‘Come, thou blessed hour of parting,
To my soul welcome rest and comfort bringing’

Reflection **Grief (John O’Donohue)**

Though the silent weeping of your heart lessens, you get on, more or less, with your life; a place is kept within you for the one who is gone. No other will ever be given the key to that door. As the years go on you may not remember the departed every day with your conscious mind. Yet below your surface mind, some part of you is always in their presence.

From their side, our friends in the unseen world are always secretly embracing us in their new and bright belongings. Though we may forget them, they can never forget us; their secret embrace unknowingly shelters and minds us.

The bright moment in grief is when the sore absence gradually changes into a well of presence. You become aware of the subtle companionship of the departed one. You know that when you are in trouble, you can turn to this presence beside you and draw on it for encouragement and blessing. The departed is now no longer restricted to any one place and can be with you any place you are. It is good to know the blessings of this presence.

Song **A Clare Benediction (John Rutter)**

May the Lord show His mercy upon you;
May the light of His presence be your guide :
May He guard you and uphold you;
May His Spirit be ever by your side.

When you sleep, may His angels watch over you;
When you wake, may He fill you with His grace :
May you love Him and serve Him all your days.
Then in heaven may you see His face.

Concluding Prayer

All say: May the Lord support us all the day long 'til the shades lengthen
and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the
fever of life is done.

Then in his mercy may He grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.

(Blessed John Henry Newman)

Song

Christ In Me Arise (Trevor Thomson)

All sing: Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.
Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.