

A service of thanksgiving for the life of
Doctor Catherine Anne Wren
(nee McMillan)

2nd April 1952 – 23rd May 2024



St Luke's Church, Ekibin
Thursday 6th June at 10am

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

A welcome is offered by the Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson.

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Please stand as you are able to sing the opening hymn.

Hymn: Morning has broken

Morning has broken like the **first** morning;
blackbird has spoken like the **first** bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the **first** dewfall on the **first** grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where His feet pass.
Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1881-1965

Music: 'Bunessan', Gaelic melody arr. © L F Bartlett, by permission Oxford University Press

Sentences of scripture.

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord.

'Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet will they live.'

John 11.25

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 46:1

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Let us pray.

Loving God, you alone are the source of life.
May your life-giving Spirit **flow** through us,

and **fill** us with compassion, one for another.
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace;
kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

EULOGIES AND TRIBUTES

Eulogy: The Rev'd David McMillan

Photographic Tribute.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Readings:

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:9-18

Hear the Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 6, starting at the 25th verse.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Matthew 6:25-34

For the gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Homily: The Rev'd David McMillan

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are offered by the minister, including the following response:

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer, said together:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

Please stand as you are able for the greeting of peace.

We are the body of Christ

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace (how sweet the sound)

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

was blind but now I see.

As grace **f**irst taught my heart to fear

and Grace, my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear

the hour I **f**irst believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares

I have already come:

God's grace has brought us safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,

his word my hope secures;

he will my shield and portion be

as long as life endures.

Words: John Newton 1725-1807 alt.

Music: 'Amazing Grace', American folk hymn melody arr. © L F Bartlett

HOLY COMMUNION

Please remain standing.

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
giver of life, and conqueror of death.

By his death on the cross,
your Son Jesus Christ
offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
breaking the power of evil
and putting death to flight.

With all your saints

We give you thanks and praise

Through his resurrection from the dead
you have given us new birth into a living hope,
into an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

With all your saints

We give you thanks and praise.

The joy of resurrection fills the universe,
and so we join with angels and archangels,
with Cathy and all your faithful people,
evermore praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night that he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me'.

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying:
Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'.

Therefore with thanksgiving for the gift of your Son
we here proclaim his passion
and death, and his victory over the grave.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with Cathy and all your faithful people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
we offer our prayer and praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The breaking of bread and the communion:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

If you are accustomed to receiving Communion in your own church, you are very welcome to share the bread and the wine with us today. Please come to the chancel step via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles.

Prayer after communion:

Lord of life and death,
we thank you that in your great love
you have given us this foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all your saints.

Grant that this sacrament of Christ's death may be to us
a comfort in affliction,
a firm assurance of his resurrection,
and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom
where death and sorrow are no more,
but all things are made new. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF FAREWELL

Please stand as you are able.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our sister Cathy
by water and the Spirit.

Grant that her death may recall to us
your victory over death,
and be an occasion for us
to renew our trust in your Father's love.

Give us, we pray, the faith to follow
where you have led the way,
to live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
to the ages of ages. Amen.

Let us entrust our sister Cathy to the mercy of God.

Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.
We entrust Cathy to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Jesus Christ,
who died and rose again to save us,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
in glory for ever. Amen.



THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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 his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Amen.

Go in peace in the name of Christ
Amen

Hymn: God is love

God is love, let heav'n adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exult him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation,
God is love, eternal Love.

God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they **find** that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is love and though with blindness
sin **afflicts** our human hearts,
God's eternal loving kindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us **final** triumph gain:
God is love, so love forever
o'er the universe must reign.

*Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939) alt., by permission Community of the Resurrection, UK
Music: 'Abbot's Leigh', Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-91), by permission Oxford University Press*

Please join the cortege behind the hearse for Cathy's final journey to the West Chapel, Mount Thompson Crematorium (329 Nursery Road, Holland Park)

Refreshments will follow the final commitment.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



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