

A Liturgy for Prayer, Reflection and Thanksgiving for the life of

Rev John Anderson



Wednesday 21 April 2021

11.00am

Service led by

The Venerable Barry Forde, Archdeacon of Belfast

and

The Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast

Gathering in God's Name

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.' *John 11: 25,26*

We brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. *1 Timothy 6: 7; Job 1: 21*

We meet in the name of Christ who died and was raised by the glory of God the Father.
Grace and mercy be with you all **and also with you.**

We have come here today to remember before God our dear brother John; to give thanks for his life, to join with our Bishop and those gathered at his funeral in leaving him in the keeping of God his creator, redeemer and judge, to comfort one another in our grief, in the hope that is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore we pray that here today we may know the peace of Christ in communion with all God's faithful servants:

God of all consolation, whose Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus his friend: Look with compassion on us your children in our loss; give to our troubled hearts the light of hope, and strengthen in us the gift of faith, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PENITENTIAL KYRIES

As children of a loving heavenly Father, let us seek the forgiveness of God, for he is full of gentleness and compassion:

Call to remembrance, O Lord, your compassion, and your loving kindness, for they have been from of old. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Remember not my sins nor my transgressions, but according to your mercy think on me. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

O keep my life, and deliver me, put me not to shame, for I have put my trust in you. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us, renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead, strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

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.

Psalm 116:1-19

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";

I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar."

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

John 14: 1-6, 27

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Time for Reflection

Silence is kept

THE PRAYERS

Thanksgiving for the life of Rev John Anderson and Intercession for his family

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your servant John; for the example he has left us, and for the fellowship we have enjoyed with him. We rejoice in your promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom the bond of love is never broken. **Amen.**

Give faith and comfort, O Lord, to all who are bereaved, especially to Eleanor, their children Simon, Hannah and Emma, his mother Jean, brother Philip, remembering his late father Don, and bringing before you his family and friends. Strengthen them to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience, not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your mercy in the past, and waiting for a joyful reunion in heaven in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept as we pray for the life of John, his family and friends

Prayers for the Bishop and the Parish of Billy and Derrykeighan

Almighty God, we praise you for the blessings brought to us through your church. We bless you for the grace of the sacraments, for our fellowship in Christ with you and with each other, for the teaching of the scriptures, and for the preaching of your word. We thank you for the holy example of your saints, for your faithful servants departed this life, and for the memory and example of all that has been good and true in their lives.

We pray this day for our Bishop as he ministers to the family....

We pray for the parish of Billy and Derrykeighan...

We pray for this diocese as we support the family and parish in prayer, and in the days to come...

Silence is kept as we pray for the parish, the bishop, and the role of the church

Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity.

Merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life of all who believe in him, and who, by his apostle Saint Paul, has taught us not to grieve as people without hope for those who sleep in him: Raise us from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that when we depart this life we may rest in him, as our hope is this our brother John does, and that at the resurrection on the last day we may be found acceptable to you, and receive the kingdom prepared for all who love and fear you. Grant this, merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. **Amen.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for all those who have died in faith, for the unceasing praise of the company of heaven, for the promise to those who mourn that all tears shall be wiped away, for the pledge of death destroyed and victory won, for our foretaste of eternal life through baptism and eucharist, for our hope in the Spirit, for the communion of saints. **May we live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Silence is kept as we pray for ourselves and our readiness to live in the light of eternity

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

God be in my head, and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes, and in my looking. God be in my mouth, and in my speaking. God be in my heart, and in my thinking. God be at mine end, and at my departing. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13: 14