

Holy Trinity, Potten End



Service of Memories

*offering time to remember those
we have loved and lost*

25th October 2020 at St. Peter's Church

Snow by Tessa Wilkinson

The snow arrived unannounced.
It overwhelmed everything.
Changed the landscape so it was unrecognizable.
No one was prepared.
My grief feels like that snowstorm.
I feel changed, weighed down by the burden.
Trying to negotiate the new environment around me,
Not knowing where I am going,
Looking for familiar landmarks.
I feel cold and miserable
and ill equipped in this new place unvisited before.
But I know in time the snow will melt
and return the landscape to some semblance of normality.
And I know in time my grief will diminish,
and I will find my way forward again,
back to a world that I recognise, changed, but familiar
Spring does always come after winter and hope will return

Many thanks for joining us either in person or online. We do understand that this service will look and feel different from other years. While it is disappointing that this service isn't in Holy Trinity Church, we didn't want people to feel any pressure in booking, nor to turn people away due to lack of space. In our ever-changing world, we feel this is all the more reason to come together, to remember and to give thanks to all those we have loved and lost. Every blessing, Rev Joe.

*Due to Covid-19 restrictions for guidance around social distancing, pinch points and touching, personal candle lighting will not take place this year. Candles will be lit as names are read out. We apologise for this and hope this is something that can happen next year.
We hope you understand.*

***There will be a retiring collection for the
Hospice of St Francis.***

**Music before the service – Largo from Concerto for Two Violins
by Johann Sebastian Bach**

Welcome and Opening Prayer

As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night,
the mercies of God shall not cease.

(Genesis 8.22)

When winter comes and all seems dark and hope is gone,
Guide us from darkness to light.

When spring starts to appear, and hope is rekindled,
Bring us your comfort and show us the way.

When the sun shines warm,
birds sing and the bulbs bloom,
**Let us rejoice at the ending of winter
and the signs of new hope.**

God of time and space,
In your hands you hold all that you have made.
You breathe life into all creation;
And without you there is no life,
For our lives are hidden in you.
As we gather to remember those we have loved –
People of your creating and saving,
Help us to believe that none are forgotten by you,
And grant us the comfort of your peace;
Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Music – *Sospiri by Edward Elgar*

Sospiri meaning ‘sighs’. Take time during this piece to recall memories of your departed loved ones.

Responsive Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.

**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

**So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.**

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.

**The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

Poem – *I remember, I remember*

In the spring, when the first crocus
pokes its head tentatively out of the frozen ground,
I think of you and I remember...
I remember.

In the summer, when the glaring heat
wilts the rose petals
and paints unsightly cracks in the ground,
I think of you and I remember...
I remember.

In the autumn, when the trees are ablaze
in the glory of fall,
and my shoes make crackling sounds as I walk,
I think of you and I remember...
I remember.

And in the winter, when I stand at my window
to watch a blizzard whirl snow around my grief
and loneliness,
I think of you and I remember...
I remember.

(The Centering Corporation)

Music – *Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) by Geoffrey Burgon*

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.
Amen.

Bible Reading – *Ecclesiastes 3.1-8*

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain;
a time to search, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to mend;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Reflection – *the Revd. Joe Roberts*

Prayers

God of comfort,
we hold out to you all here today, who feel that winter has come now that
their loved one has died. We pray that in time they will know that spring
always follows winter. That the cold dark place of grief will gradually
melt and be warmed by your healing, warming love and peace.
Lord, share our sadness.
And bring us healing and peace.

God of friendship,
we hold out to you all here today who feel alone and afraid, uncertain
what their future will hold. We pray that they will be aware of you
walking beside them, guiding and guarding them, and leading them on
to a new place, and a new hope.

Lord, hold our loneliness.

And bring us healing and peace.

God of love,
we hold out to you all those gathered here today who feel frightened by
change and newness. As the world around us is ever changing, moving
from season to season, we pray that we may grow to trust that in our lives,
although many things change, God's love will never change and will
always be there for us.

Lord, enfold us in your love.

And bring us healing and peace.

**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.**

The Lighting of Candles

The names of those who have died are read out.

When a name is read out a candle will be lit in their memory.

*Our candles are a sign to remind us of the people we mourn, who now
rest in the peace of Christ. They also represent the journey we are taking,
where light springs from darkness and hope from desolation.*

Commendation Prayer

When we are weary and in need of strength,
when we are lost and sick at heart,
We will remember them.

When we have a joy we long to share,
when we have decisions that are hard to make,
We will remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,
We will remember them.

At the blueness of the skies
and in the warmth of summer,
In the rustling of the leaves
and in the beauty of the autumn,
We will remember them.

At the rising of the sun and its setting,
We will remember them.

We commend all those whom we love,
in the name of God who creates,
in the name of Jesus Christ who redeems,
and in the name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies.
May the homeward path rise to meet them
and may they be welcomed across the threshold
and received in love's embrace.
For them, there is no more death or sorrow or pain.
So may the company of heaven enfold them
and keep them in peace this day and always. **Amen.**

Music – *In Paradisum from Fauré's setting of the Requiem Mass*

May the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs greet you at your arrival
and lead you into the holy City of Jerusalem.
May the choir of Angels greet you
and like Lazarus, who once was a poor man,
may you have eternal rest.

Final Prayer & Blessing

The Lord is here, **God is with us.**
We need not fear, **God is with us.**
We are surrounded by love, **God is with us.**
We are immersed in peace, **God is with us.**
We rejoice in hope, **God is with us.**
We go out into the world **God is with us.**

May the God of winter meet us in our dark nights and show us the way.
May the God of spring bless us with a message of hope and healing.
May we all be blessed by the knowledge that spring always follows winter.
And may we all live in the light and warming love of the risen Lord.
Amen.

Exit music – *‘Te Deum’ Prelude by Charpentier*

Please take this order of service with you.

*God’s blessing goes with you now and forever more.
If you would ever like a chat please contact Rev Joe:
01442 865217 / vicar@holyltrinitypottenend.org.uk*

Thank you to our musicians:

Singers

Rachel Davis
Deborah Dolce
Mary Flynn
Rebecca Hargreaves
Amanda King
Esther King Smith
Netty Nicholson
Mădălina Tudoran

Violins

Esther King Smith
Ann Lovatt

Cello

Margaret Richards

Trumpet

Mike Lovatt

Organ

Daniel Smith
Richard King