

'SPECIAL LIVES'

A Service of Remembrance



Sunday 13th December 3.00pm

As you arrive please collect a cut out star on which you can write the names of loved ones. Later during the service you will be invited to hang your star on the Christmas tree in their memory.

WELCOME

CHOIR CAROL - O Little Town of Bethlehem v.1,2,4

RESPONSES AND PRAYER

Life is a journey of many different roads. Sometimes we lift our faces to the sun and sometimes there is a hard journey through pathways of pain and fear.

All: We remember today that God is with us and nothing can separate us from his love.

Hear these words of hope and assurance:

"I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will walk with you through the valley of the shadow of death, along the paths that lead to eternal life".

All: Amen

Cast your burden on the Lord

All: And he will sustain you

In returning and rest

All: you shall be saved

In quietness and trust

All: shall be your strength.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

All: Lord, have mercy

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:

All: Christ, have mercy

You bring to light those in darkness:

All: Lord, have mercy

Be with us, loving God.

Hear our prayers and comfort us in our loss,

Help us to trust in your Son Jesus, whom you raised from the dead.

Strengthen our faith and renew our hope that those we love will share in his resurrection.

Amen.

READINGS

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦
therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; ♦

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦

you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, ♦

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Poem: Remember me by Christina Rossetti

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

CHOIR CAROL – In the bleak midwinter

Romans Chapter 8:35, 37-39

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

ADDRESS

A short time of silent reflection is kept.

RESPONSES

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

All: We remember them

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

All: We remember them

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

All: We remember them

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of Autumn,

All: We remember them

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

All: We remember them

When we are lost and sick at heart,

All: We remember them

When we have joys we yearn to share,

All: We remember them

So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are part of us,

All: and we remember them

'SPECIAL LIVES'

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you have made us in your image to reflect your truth and light.
We give you thanks for all those we remember before you now.
We thank you for the memories we treasure,
for the love we received, for the good we saw and for the years
we shared.

Amen.

*As the choir sings 'Silent Night', you are invited to come forward
and hang your stars on the Christmas tree in memory of loved ones
you remember today. After all stars have been hung on the tree we
sing:*

PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, we remember in your presence those we have
loved. We give thanks for those who have been part of our lives:

For parents, and the love which brought us to birth
we praise you Lord.

All: And bring you thanks today.

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us:
we praise you Lord.

All: And bring you thanks today.

For fathers who have loved and supported us:
we praise you Lord

All: And bring you thanks today.

For children entrusted to us as parents:
we praise you Lord

All: And bring you thanks today.

For brothers, sisters, husbands, wives and beloved partners
and friends with whom we have shared our homes:
we praise you Lord

All: And bring you thanks today.

For all our memories and the times we have shared:
we praise you Lord

All: And bring you thanks today.

Lord help us to leave those we have loved in your care and
mercy and help us to trust you with all our joys and sorrows.

All: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And 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.**

CHOIR CAROL - Once in Royal David's city v.1,2,5,6

BLESSING

May 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 the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace, and the Blessing of God almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and always. Amen

There is a collection plate for donations as you leave.