

Bedford Bereavement Care

Ecumenical Service

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Norse Road
Sunday 3 November 2002

Preacher
The Reverend Bill Davies

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die
John Chapter 11 Verse 25

During our service there will be an opportunity to light a candle, why do we do this ?

Lighting a candle is a prayer:

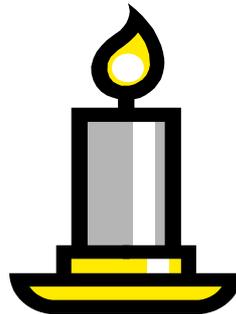
When we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them and for others.

Lighting a candle is a parable:

burning itself out it gives light to others. Christ gave himself for others. He calls us to give ourselves.

Lighting a candle is a symbol:

of love and hope, of light and warmth. Our world needs them all.



Welcome

Verse from Scripture

Jesus said, Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest
Matthew Chapter 11:28

Opening Prayer

O gracious Lord, enable us to listen lovingly to your word. May we console each other with the message you proclaim. So may we find light in darkness and faith in the midst of doubt. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can no more, O death appal us;
Jesus lives! By this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthral us.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! For us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! Our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia.

Prayers of Penitence

You bring good news to the poor. You proclaim freedom to the prisoner, sight for the blind and release for those who are oppressed. Free your people

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner. You renew life beyond death with unending mercy, by your Spirit make us one people.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

You care for the living and promise a share in your inheritance to all who put their trust in you. Work blessing in the midst of trouble for all who put their trust in you

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

O God, the maker and redeemer of all believers, grant us with all your faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection; that in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Minister

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Service of Light

Minister:

We remember before God those whom we love and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope.

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

You O Lord are my lamp
With you O Lord is the well of life
Jesus Christ is the light of the world

**You turn our darkness into light
In your light shall we see light
A light no darkness can quench**

Choir Anthem - Renhold Parish Church Choir

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,
the darkness deepens, Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour,
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Thro' cloud and sunshine Lord abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Bible Readings

Isaiah Chapter 40 Verses 18

To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

The reader will say 'This is the Word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God**

Revelation Chapter 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I

am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

The reader will say

'This is the Word of the Lord

All

Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Reverend Bill Davies

Hymn

There is a land of pure delight,
where saints immortal reign;
infinite day excludes the night,
and pleasures banish pain.

There everlasting spring abides,
and never-withering flowers;
death, like a narrow sea, divides
that heavenly land from ours.

Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood
stand dressed in living green;
so to the Jews old Canaan stood,
while Jordan rolled between.

But timorous mortals start and shrink
to cross this narrow sea,
and linger shivering on the brink,
and fear to launch away.

O could we make our doubts remove
those gloomy doubts that rise,
and see the Canaan that we love
with unclouded eyes;

Could we but climb where Moses stood,
and view the landscape o'er;
not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood,
should fright us from the shore.

Prayers

In peace let us pray to the Lord.....

Jesus, Bread from Heaven, you satisfy the hungry with good things: grant us a share with all the faithful departed in the banquet of your kingdom.

Hear us, risen Lord,

our resurrection and our life

Jesus, the Light of the World, you gave the man born blind the gift of sight and opened the eyes of his faith: bring those in darkness to to your eternal light and glory.

Hear us risen Lord,

our resurrection and our life

Jesus, Son of the Living God, you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life: raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.

Hear us, risen Lord,

our resurrection and our life

Jesus, Crucified Saviour, in your dying you entrusted each to the other Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple: sustain and comfort all who mourn.

Hear us risen Lord,

our resurrection and our life

Jesus, our Way and Truth and Life, you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith: reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.

Hear us risen Lord,

our resurrection and our life

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.

Amen

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Blessing

**Christ makes saints of sinners, he has transformed those we remember today,
in him all creation will be liberated and restored from bondage and decay to
the glorious freedom of the children of God.**

May he raise and strengthen you this day, and may the blessing of God Almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you and those you love,
this day and evermore. **AMEN.**

Special thanks to Mr Mike Puttock our organist
and to the choir of Renhold Parish Church.
This service is made possible with the assistance of
Bedford Borough Council