

**A Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for the life
of
Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022**

Friday 16th September 2022 at 7pm
Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon



Organised by the Old Town Partnership of Churches
on behalf of the people of Swindon

Service conducted by
The Revd Canon Simon Stevenette,
Vicar of Christ Church

Welcome and Introduction

We meet in the name of Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father; grace, mercy and peace be with you.

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11.25,26

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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.

Romans 8:38,3

Introit: God be in my head and in my understanding (Walford Davies)

Silent reflection

Please stand for the Bidding Prayer

Dear friends in Christ, we are gathered here today in love and sadness, as we come together to give thanks for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, to pray for the Royal Family and for all who grieve, and to commend her soul to God whom she served faithfully throughout her life.

We place before God her outstanding service to this nation, the Commonwealth and to the Church. In our worship today, let us offer thanks to our heavenly Father for her example of duty and commitment, her leadership and wisdom, and her steadfast faithfulness and loyalty to his Son, Jesus Christ.

Father in heaven, we give you thanks
For your servant Elizabeth our Queen.
We praise you as we remember her long life
And cherish her memory.
We offer gratitude for all she brought
To our Commonwealth and Nation.
In her devoted service,
We have seen reflections of your compassion;
In her integrity, demonstrations of your goodness;
In her faithfulness, glimpses of your external love.
Give us grace to follow her good example
So that we may come with her to your everlasting
Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory.
To him be praise now and forever.

All **Amen**

We join our prayers together in the words of the Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Hymn: All my hope on God is founded

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Personal reflections on the life and service of Queen Elizabeth II

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton and
MP for South Swindon and Secretary of State for Wales, Sir Robert Buckland

Bible Reading: Proverbs 2:1-11

Margaret Williams MBE

My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;
if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for hidden treasures—
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
prudence will watch over you;
and understanding will guard you.
This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Choir Anthem: I vow to thee my country (Holst)

I vow to thee my country
All earthly things above
Entire and whole and perfect
The service of my love
The love that asks no questions
The love that stands the test
That lays upon the altar
The dearest and the best
The love that never falters
The love that pays the price
The love that makes undaunted
The final sacrifice

And there's another country
I've heard of long ago
Most dear to them that love her
Most great to them that know
We may not count her armies
We may not see her King
Her fortress is a faithful heart
Her pride is suffering
And soul by soul and silently
Her shining bounds increase
And her ways are ways of gentleness
And all her paths are peace

Bible Reading: Matthew 7:24-28

The Mayor of Swindon, Councillor Abdul Amin

Jesus said:

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!'

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness
O God my Father
There is no shadow
Of turning with Thee
Thou changest not
Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been
Thou forever wilt be

Summer and winter
And springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars
In their courses above
Join with all nature
In manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness
Mercy and love

Refrain

*Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me*

Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence
To cheer and to guide
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine
With ten thousand beside

CCLI Song # 5196100

Sermon: The Rt Reverend Dr Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon

Hymn: Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer

Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

The Prayers: The Revd Rachel Collins, Minister of Bath Road Methodist Church

Let us pray.

Lord in your loving kindness
All **Hear our prayer.**

We gather up all our prayers in the words of the Grace:

All **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us for evermore. Amen.**

Choir Anthem: Nunc Dimittis (Stanford in B flat)

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
Luke 2.29-32

Please stand

**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.**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
All **And there shall no torment touch them.**

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

All **My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.**

I will walk before the Lord
In the land of the living

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord King Charles and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Now Thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done
In whom His world rejoices
Who from our mother's arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us

And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given
The Son and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven
The one eternal God
Whom earth and heaven adore
For thus it was is now
And shall be evermore

CCLI Song # 86638

Please remain standing for the blessing by the Bishop of Swindon

God grant to the living, grace
To the departed, rest,
To the Church, the King, the Commonwealth
and all humankind, peace and concord,
And to us and all his servants
Life everlasting,
The Blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always
Amen

The National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
God save our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On him be pleased to pour;
Long may he reign:
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

Not on this land alone,
But be God's mercies shown
On ev'ry shore.
Lord, make the nations see
That all humanity
Should form one family
The wide world o'er.

Minister

Go in the peace of Christ

All **Thanks be to God**

Organ Voluntary: Prelude in B minor BWV 544 (JS Bach)

Organist: Tim Eyles

Choir conductor: Revd Geoff Gleed

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart
then sit quietly until the conclusion of the organ voluntary.



**We invite you to stay for a cheese and wine reception with soft drinks in the
Community Centre @ Christ Church
to celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II
organised by the Old Town Partnership of Churches.**

God bless you and God bless our Swindon community at this time of national
mourning. Please be assured of our love, friendship and prayers.

Revd Canon Simon Stevenette