

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF MARY CHANCE  
20 May 1928 – 12 November 2020



## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Sentence

*Presider*

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. *John 14.1-3*

Hymn: 'Nearer, My God, to Thee'

*As the Hymn is played, please reflect silently on the words.*

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!  
Even though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
still all my song would be: "Nearer, my God, to thee,  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!"

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;  
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;  
angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to thee,  
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee.

Or if on joyful wing cleaving the sky,  
sun, moon and stars forgot, upwards I fly,  
still all my song shall be "Nearer, my God, to thee,  
nearer, my God to thee, nearer to thee!"

## Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

Show compassion to your people in their sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief to the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death and by rising again, restored life. May we then go forward eagerly to meet him, and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Psalm 23

*Reader*

A Reading from the Psalms.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. You make me lie down in green pastures and lead me beside still waters. You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You spread a table before me \* in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### *Reader*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn: 'How Great Thou Art'

*As the Hymn is played, please reflect silently on the words.*

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

### *Refrain*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

*Refrain*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
and claim his own, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*

Second Reading: Psalm 121

*Reader*

A Reading from the Psalms.

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. The Lord will not let your foot be moved and the One who watches over you will not fall asleep. Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord, the Lord, watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your side, so that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil and shall keep you safe. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.

*Reader*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Homily

### The Apostles' Creed

#### *Deacon*

Let us confess the faith into which Mary was baptized.

I believe in God  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

### The Litany

#### *Presider*

Trusting in God's compassion, let us offer our prayers, saying, 'God our refuge, hide us under the shadow of your wings.' God our refuge, **hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

God of grace and glory, we thank you for Mary, who was so near and dear to us, and who has now been taken from us. God our refuge, **hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

We thank you for the friendship she gave and for the strength and peace she brought. God our refuge, **hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

We thank you for the love she offered and received while she was with us on earth. God our refuge, **hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

We pray that nothing good in this Mary's life will be lost, but will be of benefit to the world; that all that was important to her will be respected by those who follow; and that everything in which she was great will continue to mean much to us now that she is dead. God our refuge, **hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

We ask that she may go on living in her family and her friends; in their hearts and minds, in their courage and their consciences. God our refuge, **hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

We ask you that we who were close to her may now, because of her death, be even closer to each other, and that we may, in peace and friendship here on earth, always be deeply conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death. God our refuge, **hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

We pray for ourselves, who are severely tested by this death, that we do not try to minimize this loss, or seek refuge from it in words alone, and also that we do not brood over it so that it overwhelms us and isolates us from others. God our refuge, **hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

May God grant us courage and confidence in the new life of Christ. We ask this in the name of the risen Lord. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Presider* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

*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.



## The Commendation Hymn: 'Precious Lord, Take My Hand'

*As the Hymn is played, please reflect silently on the words.*

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
precious Lord, linger near;  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears  
and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand;  
guide my feet, hold my hand:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

## The Commendation

*Presider*

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,  
we commend your servant Mary.

Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold,  
a lamb of your own flock,  
a sinner of your own redeeming.  
Receive her into the arms of your mercy,  
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,  
and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### *Presider*

The eternal God is your dwelling place,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms.  
**Blessed is the Lord, our strength and our salvation.**

## The Postlude

*During the Postlude the Family will gather for the trip to the Cemetery.*

## THE COMMITTAL

### Opening Sentences

*Presider*

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away. *John 6.37*

The one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through the Spirit that dwells in you. *Romans 8.11*

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. *Psalms 16.9*

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. *Psalms 16.11*

### The Committal

*Then Mary's remains are placed in the grave. The Presider then says,*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our sister Mary, and we commit her remains to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord's face shine upon her with grace and mercy the Lord look upon her with favour and give her peace. **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord.

**And let light perpetual shine upon her.**

May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

## The Blessing of the Friends and Family

*Presider*

May the blessing of God, the holy and undivided Trinity: the Source of all life, the Word of redemption and the Spirit of wisdom, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go forth in the name of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.