



St. Paul's Anglican Church

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September 1, 2022

Dear St. Paul's family,

It is with real sadness that I write to you today on the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I know that some of you will feel real grief at this news, while others of you may feel that too much fuss is being made. Either way, Her Majesty has been Queen of Canada and the Commonwealth as well as the United Kingdom for 70 years. That means that anyone under the age of 72 will not be able to remember a time when she was not our queen. Her face and her voice have been present to us for generations, present at moments of public and private life, present at schools, present on our currency, present during Christmas morning addresses. Her name and image have been a part of our nation and our Anglican Church as we have sung God Save the Queen or as we have prayed for the Queen and the Royal Family at Sunday worship, or week day gatherings of morning prayer. And so we acknowledge that in an era of disorienting change, this, for some, will be one more disorienting change.

Yet we can take comfort in knowing that the Queen was a woman not only of duty but also of deep faith. She knew Jesus to be her own Lord and saviour, she knew Jesus as her own King and sovereign of her life. So we give thanks to God for the gift of a queen who walked with the Lord, who prayed for her people and Commonwealth, and who now has died in faith.

In the time to come there will be much discussion and opinionating about monarchies and about the life of Queen Elizabeth, as well as the future reign of King Charles III. While those conversations continue, please remember that the Lord is the potter who shapes the nations and sets leaders upon their thrones. The Lord is King of all creation and we are all held in his hands. We can be strengthened by the faith expressed by our late monarch, Elizabeth, who saw so many disorienting changes; strengthened to persevere through this change knowing the goodness and good plans of the Lord for those who love him.

If you think it good, please pray with me:

Heavenly father, King of all creation, on this day we grieve the loss of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada and the Commonwealth for 70 years. Bring comfort where it is needed for those who mourn, especially to the Royal Family. We give you thanks for her decades of service to you as Queen; we give you thanks for her faith. Let nothing that was good in her life and reign be lost, and let your blessings that flowed through her, as they do through all your children, continue to build our world and your Church. Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord, and let your light perpetual shine upon her. Amen.

We ask you Lord to bless and strengthen King Charles the Third as he takes upon his head the crown topped by your cross. Bless his reign that it should be a time of faith, stability, wisdom, and prosperity for this world, under your righteous and sovereign will. Grant him courage to accept the role he has received as well as comfort to accept the loss of his mother. Lord God, bless and save the King. Amen.

Yours in service,
Thomas

Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Brauer,
Interim Priest-in-Charge

Connecting
people
with God
and
each other