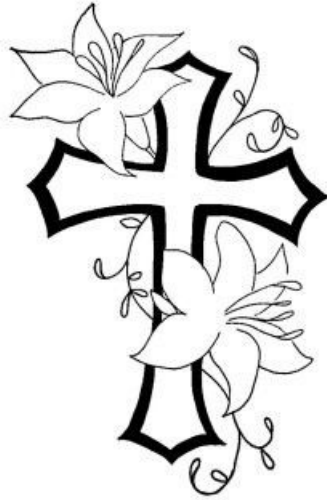


# St John the Divine Merton Priory Team



## Annual Memorial Service 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

### **Welcome and Introduction**

*Revd Alison Judge*

### **Opening Responses**

Loving God,  
we come here to remember:

**Open our minds**

Loving God,  
we take time to hear your voice:

**Open our ears.**

Loving God,  
we look for reasons to hope:

**Open our eyes**

Loving God,  
we desire to show others compassion:

**Open our hearts**

Heavenly Father,  
We thank you for the lives of those we love,  
but are no longer with us. For the gifts of  
happiness and love they gave to us and the  
treasured memories of time shared.  
Thank you for the family and friends who have  
been there during our greatest times of need,  
and the help and understanding given to us.  
As we go forward in our lives,  
may we meet the challenge and opportunities that await us  
each day, with renewed courage and hope,  
knowing you are with us always. **Amen**

**Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ  
you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.  
Strengthen this faith in us all our days,  
that we may live as those who believe in the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins  
and the resurrection to eternal life;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Reading** *Lamentations 3.21–26*

But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,<sup>[a]</sup>  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”  
The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

## **Reading** *Matthew 6:25-33*

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

For the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

### **Address**

*Revd Mark Eminson*

## **Commemoration of the Departed**

You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power.

**For you have created all things,  
and by your will they have their being.**

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,  
and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and nation.

**You have made them to be a kingdom and priest  
serving our God, and they will reign with you on earth.**

*The names of those we remember are read aloud.*

This is the will of him that sent me,  
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,

**And I will raise them up at the last day.**

*Some moments of silence*

An Act of Remembrance

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

**We remember them;**

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

**We remember them;**

in the opening of buds and in the warmth of summer,

**We remember them;**

in the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn

**We remember them;**

in the beginning of the year and when it ends  
**We remember them;**  
when we are weary and in need of strength  
**We remember them;**  
when we are lost and sick of heart,  
**We remember them;**  
when we have joys we yearn to share,  
**We remember them;**  
we rejoice and give thanks for every treasured memory.

**Music** *for reflection*

## **Prayers**

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 them that 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.**

## **Notices**

## **Closing Prayer**

Support us, O Lord,  
all the day long of this troublous life,  
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,  
the busy world is hushed,  
the fever of life is over, and our work is done.  
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest, and peace at the last;  
though Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May God give you  
his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you  
and with those whom you love  
this day and always.  
**Amen**

## **AFTERWORD**

*I always think that we all live, spiritually, by what others have given us in the significant hours of our life. These significant hours do not announce themselves as coming, but they arrive unexpected. Often, indeed, their significance comes home to us first as we look back, just as the beauty of a piece of music or of a landscape often strikes us first in our recollection of it. Much that has become our own in gentleness, modesty, kindness, willingness to forgive, in veracity, loyalty, resignation under suffering, we owe to people in whom we have seen or experienced these virtues at work, sometimes in a great matter, sometimes in a small. A thought which had become act sprang into us like a spark, and lighted a new flame within us. If we had before us those who have thus been a blessing to us, and could tell them how it came about, they would be amazed to learn what passed over from their life into ours.*

**Albert Schweitzer**