

# **United Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the life of Queen Elizabeth II**

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**St. Mary's Parish Church  
Isles of Scilly  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
at 11.00 a.m.**

## **FOR REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE**

'I can make my solemn act of dedication with a whole Empire listening. I should like to make that dedication now. It is very simple.

I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong, but I shall not have the strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in with me, as I now invite you to do. I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.'

*Words spoken by HRH The Princess Elizabeth in a radio broadcast to the whole of the then British Empire from Cape Town on the occasion of her 21st birthday in 1947.*



# UNITED SERVICE OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

**Sentences, Introduction and Prayer**  
*Canon Perran Gay, Chaplain to the Isles*

*The officiant reads the following sentences of Scripture*

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.

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.

*The officiant greets the people*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*The officiant adds further words of welcome and introduction and then invites the congregation to stand.*

## **Opening Prayer**

We meet this day  
to remember before God our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH,  
to renew our trust and confidence in Christ,  
and to pray that together we may be one in him,  
through whom we offer our prayers and praises to the Father.

Let us be still for a moment  
and remember God's presence with us now.

*All keep a moment of silent reflection, at the end of which the Officiant says  
the Opening Prayer*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls:  
you uphold us in life and sustain us in death:  
to you be glory and praise for ever!  
For the darkness of this age is passing away  
as Christ the bright morning star brings to his saints the light of life.  
As you give light to those in darkness,  
and all who walk in the shadow of death,  
so remember in your kingdom your faithful servant, ELIZABETH,  
that death may be for her the gate to life  
and to unending fellowship with you;  
where with your saints you live and reign,  
one in the perfect union of love,  
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

*All sing the following hymn (known to be one of The Queen's favourites)*

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!

***Please sit***

**First Reading**

*Psalm 121*

*read by Councillor Robert Francis,  
Chairman of the Council of the Isles of Scilly*

A reading from the Book of Psalms.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for evermore.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Music for Reflection**

*Nunc Dimittis* by Geoffrey Burgon  
sung by Aled Jones as a child and an adult

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.

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.

**Second Reading**

*Lamentations 3.22-26, 31-33*  
read by Natalie Geen,  
Deputy Land Steward, Duchy of Cornwall

A reading from the Book of Lamentations.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
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 Lord will not  
reject for ever.  
Although he causes grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;  
for he does not willingly afflict  
or grieve anyone.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

All

**Please stand**

**Hymn**

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home;

Beneath the shadow of thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

**Please remain standing**

**Gospel Reading**

*John 14.1-6*

*read by the Reverend Carole Holmes,  
Superintendent Methodist Minister*

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

*All* **Alleluia.**

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you. O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples,  
'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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

*All* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you. O Christ.**

***Please sit***

**Address**

***Please stand***

**Hymn**

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;  
past put behind us, for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

***Please sit***

## **The Prayers**

Let us pray

Let us call to mind our own memories that extend across the years  
as we give thanks to God for the life of his servant Queen Elizabeth.

Eternal God, our heavenly Father,  
we bless your holy name for all that you have given us  
in and through the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth.

We give you thanks for her love of family and her gift of friendship;  
for her devotion to this nation and the people of the Commonwealth;  
for her grace, dignity and courtesy;  
and for her generosity and love of life.

We praise you for the courage that she showed in testing times;  
for the depth and steadfastness of her Christian faith;  
and for the witness she bore to it in word and deed.

Accept our thanks and praise, we pray,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

Next let us remember before God all those who mourn,  
those whose lives have been touched by the Queen's love and care,  
and those who will miss her most in the years ahead.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort:  
deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn,  
the members of the Royal Family,  
this Nation and all the Nations of the Commonwealth,  
that casting all our care on you,  
we may know the consolation of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

And let us offer to God our prayers for ourselves and one another,  
for grace to follow the Queen's example of Christian service,  
and to share with her in the joys of the world to come.

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening  
into the house and gate of heaven,  
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,  
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;  
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;  
in the habitations of your glory and dominion, world without end.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
**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.**

**Please stand**

## **The Commendation**

Let us commend our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH  
to the mercy of God, our maker and defender.

Our Sovereign Lady and our sister in the faith QUEEN ELIZABETH  
has fallen asleep in the faith of Christ  
and now rests in the sleep of peace.  
We entrust her, with faith and hope in everlasting life,  
to the love and mercy of our Father  
and surround her with our love and prayer.  
In baptism, she was made by adoption a child of God.  
At the Lord's table she was sustained and fed.  
God now welcomes her to his table in heaven  
to share in eternal life with all the saints.  
We also turn to the Lord on our own behalf.  
May we who now mourn our Sovereign Lady's departure,  
be one day united with her.  
May we all go forward together on that day to meet Christ,  
when he, our life, appears in glory.

*The Commendation continues with the Celtic Blessing sung by Katherine  
Jenkins to music by John Rutter*

Deep peace of the running wave to you;  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you;  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you;  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you;  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you;  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you;  
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you;  
Deep peace of Christ to you.

*The officiant says the following Prayer of Commendation*

Into your hands, Lord,  
our faithful creator and most loving redeemer,  
we commend our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth,  
for she is yours in death as in life.  
In your great mercy  
fulfil in her the purpose of your love;  
gather her to yourself in gentleness and peace,  
that, rejoicing in the light and refreshment of your presence,  
she may enjoy that rest which you have prepared  
for your faithful servants;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,  
**my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.**

*All* I will walk before the Lord  
**in the land of the living.**

*All* For Christ has been raised from the dead,  
**the first fruits of those who sleep.**

*All* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## Hymn

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:  
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife,  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:  
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

***Please remain standing***

*The Officiant says*

As we give thanks to God for his great mercies towards us  
in the years of Queen Elizabeth's most gracious reign,  
we now commit ourselves to the future that God has prepared for us,  
as we pray for His Majesty The King  
and for this nation and commonwealth committed to his charge.

Almighty God,  
you rule over all the kingdoms of the world,  
and govern them according to your gracious will,  
and you have called your servant our Sovereign Lord King Charles  
to the throne of this realm:  
may your wisdom be his guide, may your arm strengthen him;  
and may justice, truth, and holiness flourish in his days.  
Direct all his endeavours to your glory,  
and the welfare of his people;  
and give us grace to honour and obey him for conscience sake;  
that he may always possess the hearts of his people,  
that his reign may be long and prosperous,  
and that you will crown him with immortality in the life to come;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The National Anthem is sung.*

God save our gracious King,  
Long live 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.

## **Blessing**

*The Officiant says the following blessing*

God grant to the living, grace;  
to the departed, rest;  
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and all humankind,  
unity, peace and concord;  
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All*

**Amen.**



***Please take this order of service away.***

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