

Parish of Central Windsor

St Stephen & St Agnes Church

In Loving Memory



**A Service of
Remembrance**

**Sunday 25th October 2026
3:00pm**

A warm welcome to our service today.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

We welcome you into this house of prayer,
that here today you may know the peace of Christ.

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deuteronomy 33.27*

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith that all who have died
in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord
who lives and reigns with you
now and forever.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

**Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's dark sting? where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.** Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Let us pray

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort, deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn here today, that casting all their cares on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 61 vv1-3

61 ¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER

Father in heaven,
we give you thanks for the lives of our loved ones.
We praise you as we recollect their life and cherish their memory.
We bless you that in bearing your image
they have brought light into our lives.
In their friendship we have seen your compassion
In their integrity, your goodness and in their love we have glimpsed your eternal love.

We thank you for their life and for the rest in Christ they now enjoy, we thank you for giving them to us,
we thank you for the glory we shall one day share together.
Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Jan Struther (Joyce Placzek) (1901-1953)

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

John 14 vv1-6,27

14 ¹ ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ ⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

ADDRESS

HYMN

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury your pardon Lord
and where there's doubt true faith in you**

*Oh Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul*

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
*Oh Master ...***

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life**

*Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)
from a prayer of St Francis of Assisi (c1182-1226)*

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything you have made.
In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life and
the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven, through Jesus Christ our
Lord

All **Amen.**

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Any who wish are encouraged to come and light a candle in memory of a loved one. When all have done so, the names of those whom we are remembering this evening will be read aloud

Please keep silence during this time and use it for your own silent prayers and reflections.

PRAYERS

This bidding and response is used in our prayers:

Lord, in your mercy,
All **Hear our our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom,
as we pray in the words you gave us:
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.**

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,
we commend all those whom we remember this day.
Acknowledge, we pray, sheep of your own fold,
lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming.
Enfold them in your loving arms,
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace
and in the glorious company of the saints in light.
All **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant unto them,
O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace,
All **and rise in glory. Amen**

All **Lord now you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation:
which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to
reveal you to the nations:
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:
and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

HYMN

**Love Divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

FINAL PRAYER

Faithful Lord, lift us up when we are down;
watch over us and keep us safe:
be with us in our going out and our coming in,
now and for ever.

All **Amen**

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 amongst you and remain with you

All **Amen**

**Please stay for refreshments
which will be served in the hall**

You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you for
private reflection or to give to a friend.

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask!
You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on the
Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org**

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