

Three Rivers Prayer Service 11th April 2021

Opening Music Morgenstemning, Peer Gynt Op. 23 *Edvard Grieg*

Clay Christiansen, Tabernacle Organ, Salt Lake City

Snailwell Welcome Prayer

Stay awhile, be still, and let go your burden. Share in the serenity and calm of the moment. May we have the strong assurance that God cares for us, that He is with us now, and may the peace of Jesus Christ go with us. Amen **(Sarah)**

Prayers for the life of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

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. **(Sue)**

John 11.25,26

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. **(David P)**

Romans 8:38,39

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 thy majesty and glory, world without end.

John Donne

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered; Accept our prayers on behalf of the soul of thy servant Philip, now departed, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **(Michael)**

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. **(Chris)**

Miserere *Gregorio Allegri*

Choir of King's College, Cambridge

Collect of Purity (Sue)

[Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.]

HYMN For the Beauty of the Earth *Mormon Tabernacle Choir*

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

Lord, our God, to thee we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

Lord, our God, to thee we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Lord, our God, to thee we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Lord, our God, to thee we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Reflection



During the week, before we learned of the death of Prince Philip, I had been thinking about the time after Easter Day, and the ways in which Jesus appeared to those around him. I am always especially struck by the passages in

John, from Thomas and his scepticism at the resurrection of Christ, to Simon Peter, and the breakfast on the beach, with the miraculous catch of fish. The ordinariness with which Jesus appeared after Easter, Christ in the mundane, the everyday, has always really resonated with me. That sense of Jesus being present, crossing their paths as they went about their business, is so powerful and we can only imagine what it must have felt like. This man whom they had seen die a terrible, shocking, brutal death – restored to them. Walking, talking, sharing food. Such gladness, and fear, and doubt, and the dawning realisation of the meaning. Christ chose to appear to his followers not as a man of outward greatness, or of regal splendour. He chose not to gather with great throngs of people, to trumpet his resurrection in a display of grandeur. He chose instead to walk amongst them in their daily lives, showing himself in places and times in which they found themselves, and he prompted them, gently, to see him and to know he was Risen. This sense of the ordinary, what we perhaps now call the ‘common touch’, is embodied in the image I have used – simple food, a symbol of the simple life led by Christ and who chose to share bread and fish with his followers. Risen, then, He crosses our own paths every day, in ways we cannot see, in ways we sometimes cannot know, may never know, but can perhaps look back and say ‘yes’. He was there. Each one of us, whatever our sense of faith or purpose, whatever our lives and complexities, will know it, somehow. It is a powerful sense, when it happens – like a glance out of the corner of your eye – never quite sure what you saw, but knowing it was something.

So as we go out from here, from our virtula worship back in our beloved church building, lets reflect on that simple message of hope, and faith and love. Lets hold fast to the presence of Christ in the ordinary, the mundane, and seek him in the everyday. Finally, as we work to live the life of quiet service and gratitude the life of Christ teaches us, lets also give thanks for the life of Prince Philip, this man whom none of us knew but whom all of us felt somehow ‘belonged’ to the nation, and who embodied service and duty, underpinned by a strong Christian faith. There can be no better epitaph than a good life, well lived.

Amen.

HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;

Tender to me the promise of his word;

In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age the same;

His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by;

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,

The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!

The Peace

Jesus says:
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.
The peace of the risen Lord be always with you

Unmute – And also with you

The Grace

Closing Music

Imperial March

Edward Elgar

Stephen Cleobury, Organ of King's College Chapel, Cambridge

CHAT!

God Save the Queen

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=JN89noqzHIs&feature=share> (2 min)

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