



THE BENEFICE of PONTEFRAC

ST GILES'

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All Souls' Evening Service

Remembering with thanksgiving those who have died

5th November 2023 4p.m.

Processional hymn (333)

**All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew,
me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.**

**God unknown,
He alone
calls my heart to be His own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray His trust;
what with care and toil He buildeth,
tower and temple fall to dust.**

**But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep His wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend Him,
beauty springeth out of naught.**

**Evermore
from His store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.**

**Love doth stand
at His hand;
joy doth wait on His command.**

**Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, His Son.**

**Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

Robert Bridges
based on the German: Joachim Neander

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

Amen.

We come this evening to remember with thankfulness those we have known and loved who have died. We give thanks for all that they have meant to us. We come seeking to learn of God's love and to open our lives to the help and strength that he can give us as we continue on the journey of life without them. We pray for ourselves and all who mourn that they would be comforted.

The Paschal Candle is lit as a symbol of our hope for the resurrection of the dead.

Jesus, Lord of time,

hold us in your eternity.

Jesus, image of God,

travel with us the life of faith.

Jesus, friend of sinners,

heal the brokenness of our world.

Jesus, Lord of tomorrow,

draw us into your future. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

cf 1 Corinthians 2.9

Silence is kept.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May God our Father forgive you your sins
and bring you to the eternal joy of his kingdom,
where dust and ashes have no dominion.
Amen.

The Collect

Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ
you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.
Strengthen this faith and hope 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.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: 1 Peter 1.3-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

We stand for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Reading: John 6:37-40

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you O Lord.

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Hymn (381)

**Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blest,
beneath thy contemplation
sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, O I know not
what social joys are there,
what radiancy of glory,
what light beyond compare.**

**They stand, those halls of Sion,
conjubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel
and all the martyr throng;
the Prince is ever with them,
the daylight is serene,
the pastures of the blessèd
are decked in glorious sheen.**

**There is the throne of David;
and there, from care released,
the song of them that triumph,
the shout of them that feast;
and they, who with their Leader
have conquered in the fight,
for ever and for ever
are clad in robes of white.**

**O sweet and blessèd country,
shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessèd country,
shall I ever win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes!
the Lord shall be thy part:
His only, His for ever,
thou shalt be, and thou art!**

Bernard of Cluny C¹²th, Tr. John Mason Neale

Please be seated.

The Prayers

Let us pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

Remember, Lord, all who cry to you
from death's dark gates;
do not forget those whom the world forgets,
but raise your faithful ones to Zion's gate,
with your all-conquering Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
when hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands
and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God.

Amen.

In the darkness of unknowing,
when your love seems absent,
draw near to us, O God,
in Christ forsaken,
in Christ risen,
our Redeemer and our Lord.

Amen.

Lord of all,
our breath and being come from you,
yet our earthly end is dust;
bring us in your mercy through the grave and gate of death
to the feast of eternal life,
where you reign for evermore.

Amen.

God of compassion, we pray for those who mourn today
and for those whose need of you is very great.
May they embrace your promise of eternal life
and, in their grief, receive your gifts of peace, hope, joy and faith;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God,
surround us today with your compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm us,
nor anguish of heart turn us from you.
In our darkness
let the light of your love still shine within us
and in our pain and loss
let the peace of your presence continue to fill our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
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.**

The Commemoration

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 priests
serving our God, and they will reign with you on earth.**

The names of those to be remembered 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.

Lord God, creator of all,
you have made us creatures of this earth,
but have also promised us a share in life eternal.
According to your promises,
may all who have died in the peace of Christ
come with your saints to the joys of your kingdom,
where there will be neither sorrow nor pain,
but life everlasting.

Alleluia. Amen.

Grant to us, Lord God,
to trust you not for ourselves alone,
but for those also whom we love
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;
that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ
from the dead,

so may we trust your love
to give eternal life to all who believe in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

*We take time to remember those who have died and affirm that they are in God's keeping.
As music is played and sung, candles are lit and left burning on the altar as an act of
remembrance.*

Choir: 'Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts' - Henry
Purcell (1659-1695)

*Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death,
to fall from thee. Amen.*

Hymn (336)

**Angel voices, ever singing,
round Thy throne of light,
angel-harps, for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless Thee,
and confess Thee
Lord of might.**

**Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that Thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that Thou art near us
and wilt hear us?
yea, we can.**

**Yea, we know that Thou rejoicest
o'er each work of Thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
for Thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for Thy pleasure
all combine.**

**In Thy house, great God, we offer
of Thine own to Thee;
and for Thine acceptance proffer,
all unworthily,
hearts and minds and hands and voices,
in our choicest
psalmody.**

**Honour, glory, might and merit,
Thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Blessed Trinity!
Of the best which Thou hast given
earth and heaven
render Thee.**

Poem: Holding and Letting Go, Malcolm Guite

We have a call to live, and oh
A common call to die.
I watched you and my father go
To bid a friend goodbye.
I watched you hold my father's hand,
How could it not be so?
The gentleness of holding on
Helps in the letting go.

For when we feel our frailty
How can we not respond?
And reach to hold another's hand
And feel a common bond?
For when we touch the heights above
And every depth below,
We touch the very quick of love;
Holding and letting go.

Silence is kept

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;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

We stand for the blessing and dismissal.

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 always.

Amen.

Neither death nor life
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn (252)

**The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.**

**As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.**

**The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.**

**So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.**

Jan Struther

The clergy and choir leave

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'Holding, and Letting Go' by Malcolm Guite, in *Love, Remember: 40 poems of loss, lament and hope*
(Canterbury Press, 2017)