



St John the Evangelist Farsley

A reflective service for All Saints Day

1st November 2020

Service leader: Revd Sue McWhinney

Preacher: Shirley Walker

An Introduction to the service

Opening Sentence

St Paul writes:

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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. *(Romans 8.38-39)*

Prayer

God of love, take hold of us in this act of worship and do not let us go until we have been blessed by a vision of love, infinitely generous, gentle and forgiving, simple, wholesome, mysterious, profound, in which all are accepted and no one rejected – love which never ends. Living God, love itself, live in our hearts now and forever.
Amen.

Music

Lift up your eyes (Resound Worship)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leAcvnXShl0>

A time of confession

We have come together in the name of Christ to remember our loved ones with thanksgiving, to renew our confidence in Christ and to re-affirm our faith in the saving power of his death and resurrection.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for us all. Let us come to him now in sorrow for our sins, seeking healing and salvation.

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair
Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy.**

Healer of the sick, you give strength to our weakness.
Christ have mercy, **Christ have mercy.**

Destroyer of evil, you bring life to our dying
Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lighting of the purple candle

A time to recall our losses this year....

Jesus has borne our suffering and carried our sorrows. With the lighting of this candle, we remember in love, those we have placed in your hands....we remember all who have died as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic....we bring to you Lord, all those other losses being experienced in our daily lives.....and we seek your comfort.

Reading (adapted from Isaiah 43.1-4)

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name, you are mine. When you walk through the waters I'll be with you, you will never sink beneath the waves. When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames. When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side. When you dwell in the exile of the stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes. You are mine, O my child, I am your Father and I love you with a perfect love.

Lighting of the white candle

Symbol of hope and new life, the light of Christ, shining in the darkness.

God gave us new life by raising Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope...

Bible Reading

Matthew 8.5-13

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘my servant lies at home paralysed, suffering terribly.’ ⁷ Jesus said to him, ‘Shall I come and heal him?’

⁸ The centurion replied, ‘Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, “Go,” and he goes; and that one, “Come,” and he comes. I say to my servant, “Do this,” and he does it.’

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, ‘Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, ‘Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.’ And his servant was healed at that moment.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Meditation: Shirley Walker

Prayers

This response may be used

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

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Reading

A reading to take us on our way into whatever lies ahead of us....

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown" and he replied "Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God. That shall be to thee better than a light and safer than a known way." (*Louise Haskins*)

Blessing

May God who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints, pour upon you the riches of his grace.

May he give you joy in their fellowship,
and a share in their praises.

May he strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness, and to come to the full radiance of glory.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Music

May the Grace (Resound Worship)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INPoOfjFJ5s>

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000
And with grateful thanks to Resound Worship <https://www.resoundworship.org/>
November 2020