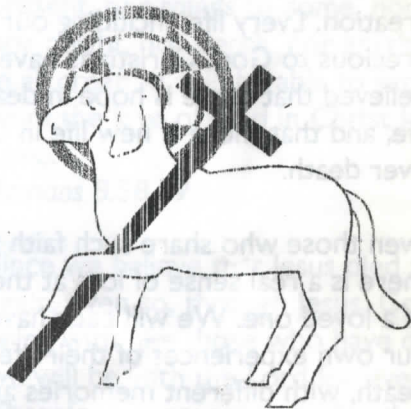


St. Peter's Church

Upper Gornal



Funeral Service

for

Joan Stringer

(12th April 1925 - 11th March 2005)

Monday, 21st March 2005

Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted.
Matthew 5:4

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
John 3:16

Pastoral Introduction

This may be read silently by those present before the service begins.

God's love and power extend over all creation. Every life, including our own, is precious to God. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life, and that there is new life in Christ over death.

Even those who share such faith find that there is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one. We will each have had our own experiences of their life and death, with different memories and different feelings of love, grief and respect. To acknowledge this at the beginning of the service should help us to use this occasion to express our faith and our feelings as we say farewell, acknowledge our loss and our sorrow, and to reflect on our own mortality. Those who mourn need support and consolation. Our presence here today is part of that continuing support.

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The Funeral Service

The Gathering

Stand

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11.25,26

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

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4.14,17b,18

We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6.7; Job 1.21b

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3.22,23

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5.4

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3.16

Introduction

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of
God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you.

We have come here today
to remember before God our sister Joan
to give thanks for her life;
to commend her to God our merciful
redeemer and judge;
to commit her body to be buried,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

God of all consolation,
your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears
at the grave of Lazarus his friend.
Look with compassion on your children
in their loss;
give to troubled hearts the light of hope,
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly
things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service
of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love
that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and
the best;
the love that never falters, the love that
pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final
sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of
long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most
great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not
see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is
suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining
bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and
all her paths are peace.

Prayers of Penitence

Kneel

As children of a loving heavenly Father,
let us ask his forgiveness,
for he is gentle and full of compassion.

Silence kept:

God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have
thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed
to do.

For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Silence is kept.

The Collect

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that Joan and all who have died in the
love of Christ
will share in his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

All Amen.

Stand

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me
his word my hope secures
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there a thousand years
bright shining as the sun
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

Sit

Reading

John 14.1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: 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.'

Sermon

Kneel

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you have made us in your image
to reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for Joan
for the grace and mercy she received
from you, for all that was good in her life,
for the memories we treasure today.
[Especially we thank you...]

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

You promised eternal life to those who believe. Remember for good this your servant Joan as we also remember her. Bring all who rest in Christ into the fullness of your kingdom where sins have been forgiven and death is no more.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death. Look in mercy on Steve, Robert, Kirk, and all the family and all who mourn. Give them patient faith in times of darkness. Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

You are tender towards your children and your mercy is over all your works. Heal the memories of hurt and failure. Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth, to turn to Christ and follow in his steps in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

All God of mercy, entrusting into your hands all that you have made and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people, we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

Sit

A reading of verse – Robin Beach

Stand

Commendation and Farewell

Let us commend Joan to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

God our creator and redeemer, by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory. Confident of his victory and claiming his promises, we entrust Joan to your mercy in the name of Jesus our Lord, who died and is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever.

All Amen.

With this water we call to mind Joan's baptism.

As Christ went through the deep waters of death for us, so may he bring us to the fullness of resurrection life with Joan and all the redeemed.

The Dismissal

Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

All

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.
Luke 2.29-32

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.

When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayers

All 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ending

May Christ the good shepherd
enfold *you* with love,
fill *you* with peace,
and lead *you* in hope,
to the end of *your* days;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

All Amen.

Stand

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Peace
was slain, my richest gain I count but loss,
and poor compared to all my pride.

Commemoration and Farewell

Let us commend to God
the souls of all the faithful departed,
and pray that they may
rest in peace.

God our Creator and Redeemer,
by your Son Jesus Christ,
send down from heaven
the Holy Spirit,
that we may be comforted
and strengthened by his power,
and so be able to stand
firm in the faith.

All Amen.

With love so amazing, so divine,
demands thy love, my life, my mind,
my heart.

As Christ went through the deep waters
of death for us,

so may he bring us to the fullness of
resurrection life.

With Joan and all the redeemed.