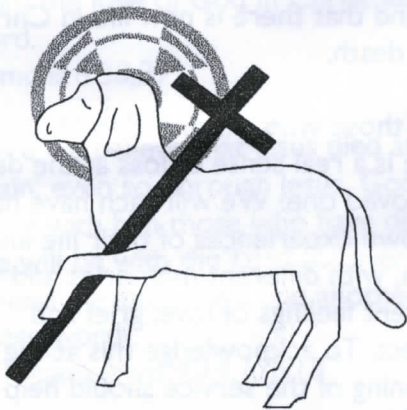


St. Peter's Church

Upper Gornal



Funeral Service

for

John Edward Marsh

(25th August 1936 – 7th July 2007)

Monday 16th July 2007

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.

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 bother
John to give thanks for his life;
to commend him to God our merciful
redeemer and judge; to commit his body
to be cremated,
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.**

Stand

And did those feet, in ancient time,
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear, O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

Sit *Luke Tribute to his Grandad*

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 John 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.**

Sit Hayley & Amy Read 'Footprints'

Stand

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 ever such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Sit

Reading

John 14.1-6,27

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. Peace 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.

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 John for the grace and mercy he received from you, for all that was good in his 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 John as we also remember him. 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.**

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Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death. Look in mercy on Hazel, Lorna, Paula, Rebecca 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.**

Stand

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

-5-

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Bear me thro' the swelling current,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Sit Robin Beach a reading

Stand

Commendation and Farewell

Let us commend John 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 John 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 John'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 John and all the redeemed.

Sit

The Dismissal

Nunc dimittis *Sung by the Choir*

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart
in peace :
according to thy word.

- 2 For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;
 - 3 Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;
 - 4 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Stand

Going home, moving on,
through God's open door;
hush, my soul, have no fear,
Christ has gone before.
Parting hurts, love protests,
pain is not denied;
yet, in Christ, life and hope
span the great divide.
Going home, moving on,
through God's open door,
hush, my soul, have no fear,
Christ has gone before,
Christ has gone before.

No more guilt, no more fear,
all the past is healed:
broken dreams now restored,
perfect grace revealed.
Christ has died, Christ is ris'n,
Christ will come again:
death destroyed, life restored,
love alone shall reign.
Going home, moving on,
through God's open door;
hush, my soul, have no fear,
Christ has gone before,
Christ has gone before.

Michael Forster (b 1949)
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Prayers

Sit Solo Katrina Brown

God be in my head,
and in my understanding;

God be in my eyes,
and in my looking;

God be in my mouth,
and in my speaking;

God be in my heart,
and in my thinking;

God be at my end
and at my departing.

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