

# St Mary's Church, Walkley

## A Memorial Service in Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

**The Church on the Road:**  
*Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God*



### **Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**

We are continuing to have some precautions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result this memorial service will be a little plainer than in previous years. We continue to be more dispersed around the building and ask you to wear a face-covering throughout. There will be a little hymn singing if you wish to join in. We hope through prayer, silence and candlelight you find space to remember, with joy and sorrow, those who we offer to God in hearts at this time.

## The Preparation

*Minister* In the name of Christ, who died and was raised by the glory of the Father, we welcome: grace mercy and peace be with you all.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Minister* God our refuge and strength,  
close at hand in our distress;  
meet us in our sorrow  
and lift our eyes to the peace and light of your constant care.  
Help us so to hear your word of grace  
that our fear will be dispelled by your love,  
our loneliness eased by your presence  
and our hope renewed by your promises in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit. The minister introduces the service.*

## The Confession and Absolution

*Minister* Let us acknowledge our shortcomings, and ask forgiveness for all the times that we have gone wrong.

*We keep a time of silence.*

*All* **Almighty God,  
For the times we have seen our way as the only way,  
we ask your forgiveness.  
For the things we have said which have hurt and torn others,  
we ask your forgiveness.  
For when we have turned away  
from helping those who needed it,  
we ask your forgiveness.  
Bring us back to yourself and cloak us in your love so that we  
may live and love as children of God.  
Amen.**

*Minister* Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## **A Reading: Remember**

Remember me when I am gone away,  
Gone far away into the silent land;  
When you can no more hold me by the hand,  
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.  
Remember me when no more day by day  
You tell me of our future that you planned:  
Only remember me; you understand  
It will be late to counsel then or pray.  
Yet if you should forget me for a while  
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:  
For if the darkness and corruption leave  
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,  
Better by far you should forget and smile  
Than that you should remember and be sad.

Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894

*We remain seated and we sing a hymn.*

## **The Word of God**

### **The Reading: 1 Peter 1. 3 – 2. 3**

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.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For

‘All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord endures for ever.’

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

*Reader* This is the word of the Lord.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Reflection**

## The Act of Remembrance

*The Paschal Candle, the great candle of Easter, is lit as a sign of the resurrection hope in Christ Jesus.*

*Minister* Almighty God  
we give you thanks  
because Christ our paschal sacrifice  
has made us children of the light,  
rising to new and everlasting life.  
He has opened the gates of heaven  
to receive his faithful people.  
His death is our ransom from death,  
his resurrection is our rising to life.  
The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world,  
while the choirs of heaven sing for ever to your glory.

*All* **Amen.**

*Music is played during which you are invited to come forward to the front of church to have your candle lit from the Easter Candle.*

*Once all who wish to come forward to have their candles lit have done so and the music is finished, the names of those we have been asked to remember will be read out.*

*We keep a time of silence.*

*Minister* Hear us, O merciful Father,  
as we remember in love  
those whom we have placed in your hands.  
Acknowledge, we pray, the sheep of your own fold,  
lambs of your own flock,  
sinners of your own redeeming.  
Enfold them in the arms of your mercy,  
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace,  
and in the glorious company of the saints in light.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Prayers of Intercession

*We remain seated or kneel.*

*Intercessor* Hear us, risen Lord,  
*All* **our resurrection and our life.**

*Intercessor* May God in his infinite love and mercy  
bring the whole Church,  
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,  
to a joyful resurrection  
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.  
*All* **Amen.**

*The prayers conclude with the following:*

## The Lord's Prayer

*Minister* Trusting in the compassion of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All* **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.**

*We remain seating to sing a hymn.*

*Following the hymn we stand.*

## The Conclusion

*All*        **Lighten our darkness,  
Lord, we pray,  
and in your great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*Minister*    May God give us  
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 us and remain with us always.

*All*        **Amen.**

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

*All*        **Thanks be to God.**

## ***Please take this order of service away with you!***

*You are welcome to spend a few minutes in quiet contemplation. We ask that when you are ready to leave please come and place your candle on the table in front of the altar. We regret that there won't be any refreshments after the service this year.*

*Please be careful as you leave and do so using the church porch and move away as quickly as possible to help others to leave too. If you use the ramp, please use the hall door as usual, and move away as quickly as you can.*

Our free eNews includes weekly updates about services and related events, including our online coffee hours.

**More information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk/opt-in-to-hear-from-st-marys/](https://stmaryswalkley.co.uk/opt-in-to-hear-from-st-marys/)**