

**Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Sunday, 18th September 2022**



Dear Friends in Christ,

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.’
(John 14: 1)

Our country and commonwealth continue in a period of mourning for the life of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. It has been wonderful to read the many heartfelt messages from leaders across the world to our Sovereign’s life of steadfast faith and duty to us all. The constant and patient line of mourners, of all ages and physical ability, passing the Queen’s coffin as she lies in State in Westminster Hall is another moving tribute to our monarch. There have been some equally moving and incredibly thoughtful reflections from the children of Sparsholt Primary School. I have been given permission to duplicate a few of them here:

Class Tributes to Queen Elizabeth II

Willow Class: Thank you for being our Queen. You were always very kind and we loved you.

Beech Class: Elizabeth II was kind to everyone in the world. She was our role model for our values and always will be.

Maple Class: Queen Elizabeth was a kind, helpful and wonderful role model. She was an extraordinary noble, loving and elegant queen.

Rowan Class: You were the longest-serving queen and everyone is proud of you. We have always loved you like family, and will always appreciate and respect you.

Oak Class: You showed us how to be royal, wise, compassionate, courageous and faithful. Your legacy will continue as we follow your example throughout our lives.



'A Tribute to Queen Elizabeth II' by Penny Kilworth

Throughout this time, King Charles and the Royal Family have shown great courage and dignity as they have honoured their mother and their Queen. Our Armed Forces and Emergency Services deserve praise for their professional honouring of Queen Elizabeth as she made her way from Balmoral to London, and for their management of the many thousands of people who have lined the route of her last journey. My personal thanks go to all those in our Benefice who have led or assisted in services, and who have tolled bells, and played music as we have prayed and worshipped.

This coming Sunday evening, **18th September at 6pm in St Mary's Church, Crawley** we will be holding a Benefice Service of Prayer and Reflection to give thanks for the life of Her Majesty ahead of her funeral the next day, which will be televised from Westminster Abbey. At **8pm on Sunday evening**, there will be a National Vigil during which we have all been asked to hold a one-minute silence.

I have copied the Order of Service set for Sunday evening for those of you unable to attend our service, which you might also find helpful as we reflect on the Queen's life as we hold silence at 8pm.

This comes with my continuing love and prayers for you all as we rejoice that Queen Elizabeth II is safely home in the joy and felicity of heaven, where the reward for her lifetime of selfless service in Christ's name is to be in the eternal presence of Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Jax

Revd Jax Machin, Rector, The Downs Benefice

Collect Prayers for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles

God of love,
We thank you for the life of The Queen,
for her service to our nation,
and for her faith in you.
Be close to all of us who mourn,
that we may we find comfort and hope in your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Collect Prayer for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills, to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

**A Service of Prayer and Reflection remembering
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the eve of her funeral
18th September 2022 @ 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Crawley**



'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service ... God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.'

Queen Elizabeth II at her Coronation on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

Greeting

The leader says

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.

Today we come together to remember before God
her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,
to give thanks for her life,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

We pray together:

Dear God

**We gather here today to remember Her Majesty the Queen.
We give thanks for her long life,
and for all the ways she loved and served those in her care.
We bring you our sadness for what we have lost;
Our gratitude for what we remember and cherish,
And our wondering about what is to yet to come.
Thank you for the comfort, peace and hope you bring us.
Amen.**

Hymn: *The Lord's My Shepherd* (Tune: Crimond)

The leader prays:

O God, our sovereign and shepherd,
who brought again your Son Jesus Christ
from the valley of death,
comfort us with your protecting presence
and your angels of goodness and love,
that we also may come home
and dwell with him in your house for ever.
Amen.

Reading: *Revelation 21.1-7*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God

Hymn: *Jerusalem*

Reading: John 14.1-6

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In 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? And 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Reflection – given by *Revd Jax Machin*

Hymn: *We Stand To Mourn a Sovereign* (Tune: Thaxted - I Vow to Thee My Country)

Prayers:

Gracious Father,
hear our prayer for all whose lives have been an inspiration and example to others of devotion and faith. Most especially we thank you, today, for the life and work of Queen Elizabeth; receive her in your mercy into your nearer presence, grant her your forgiveness, perfect her in love and may your light perpetual shine upon her. Grant that all that was true and honourable, compassionate and merciful in her life and witness to your Son, Jesus Christ, grow in the hearts of all who have shared her life here, and look forward to a joyful reunion in the heavenly places; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Everlasting God,
we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us gather up all our prayers in the words that Jesus gave 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.

Hymn: *Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven*

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation.
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.
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.

Blessing:

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and all humankind,
peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Please remain standing for:

The National Anthem

God save our gracious King,
long live our noble King,
God save the King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us;
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause,
to sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

