

# Worship at Home

## All Saints' Day

### From St Paul's Cathedral

#### WELCOME

*Given by The Bishop of London, The Rt. Rev Dame Sarah Mullally*

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

A very warm welcome to this service of thanksgiving, hope, and remembrance from St Paul's Cathedral where, through the centuries, people have gathered in times of sadness and of joy to give thanks, to remember, to reflect and to pray.

We come together today at a season of the year when Christians give thanks to God for the heroes and the heroines of every age who have inspired them on their journey through life, and when Christians remember before God, friends and loved ones who have died, trusting in God's mercy and love.

We gather at a time of great uncertainty and challenge as the people of our world struggle to overcome a devastating pandemic that has cut short earthly lives, destroyed livelihoods, and separated us from the people and the activities we enjoy. But we are not without hope.

Through word, prayer, song and symbol, we are reminded that God's love for us can never be destroyed. God is with us in our pain and fear and will lead us to a yet more glorious day.

#### HYMN

For all the saints

*Sung by the choir of St Paul's Cathedral*

For all the Saints who from their labours rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confest,  
Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest.  
Alleluya! Alleluya!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;  
Thou in the darkness drear their one true Light.  
Alleluya! Alleluya!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluya! Alleluya!

O blest communion! Fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluya! Alleluya!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluya! Alleluya!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest:  
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.  
Alleluya! Alleluya!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array:  
The King of glory passes on his way.  
Alleluya! Alleluya!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluya! Alleluya!

*Words: (NEH 197) William Walsham How (1823-97)  
Tune: Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

## **COLLECT**

*The Bishop says*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,  
grant us, with all the faithful departed,  
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion  
and glorious resurrection;  
that, in the last day,  
when you gather up all things in Christ,  
we may with all the saints enjoy the fullness of your promises;  
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.

**All: Amen.**

## TESTIMONY

### *An Everyday Faith participant speaks of bereavement and loss*

Hello, my name's Andrew and I live in north London. My mum died in June this year after a struggle with cancer. During the preceding months, she was receiving chemotherapy and my wife and I had increasingly become her carers. When she died and after the funeral the busyness of life up until that point for the last few months suddenly dropped away. Up until then we'd been looking after her, cooking for her, taking her to her appointments. But suddenly that had just dropped away and we were left alone really.

Friends and family who, up until that point had been so supportive and helpful, had increasingly dropped away. And we were left with more time on our hands. It was at that stage that I think I found it the most difficult in dealing with these feelings of grief, of anger, of deep sadness. That my mum wasn't around anymore. Up until then she'd been a really big part of our lives. We'd been her carers and suddenly when that responsibility and that investment of love and hope has gone away, it's, there's a huge vacuum. And that was very difficult to experience, to live with. As a Christian I know that God loves us, and I know that I'll see my mum again. But during the course of my mum's treatment she was losing weight, she was increasingly unwell, in a lot of pain and we really prayed for healing, hundreds of people, thousands across the world, in India, the Middle East, America were praying for her. People across different denominations really pleaded that she be spared. But she died. And she experienced a lot of pain and many of the things that we take for granted, like walking, going out shopping, increasingly these things she couldn't do.

And I asked God at that time, why didn't you heal her? Why did you, why didn't you take away the pain she felt. A friend has suggested I go on a course, called a Bereavement Journey, which is being run by a local church. I needed a safe place to talk about how I was feeling, about these feelings of frustration, anger, and hurt. So I went along this course and I found other people who had exactly the same feelings as me. It was a place where I felt safe about talking about how it's feeling. It was a place where I could both listen and be listened to. I still have lots of questions, but being in an environment where I could talk openly and without fear of embarrassment or shame, or scrutiny was just a relief, it was just a place where I could talk to people, and whilst many questions still remain unanswered, I know that God loves my mum and he loves me, and my faith hasn't been changed, but it's, it's incorporated this loss and its helped me to realise that God does love us, even when he doesn't do exactly what we want him to do, that God is still there, but he's with us. he's with us during this experiences.

During the time my mum has died until now, I think about her every day, it might be just something someone says, or a memento around the home, or just generally daydreaming, reminiscing about the things she used to do and say. And there is a gap, and there is grief, but I don't think I'm going to get over the grief, I'm not going to get over her absence, I'm, I think people learn to integrate the loss of someone into their lives, their relationship is not gone, it's changed.

And I do think it's helpful to have times when we can get together with those people that have loved my mum, family and friends and think about them, and remember them, and just say thank you for the people they, that they touched, and who they were to us.

So I think it's important to remember people closest to us when they've gone and say they're still part of our lives, the relationship's changed but just because she's dead, my mum doesn't stop being my mum. I'm looking forward to June next year when we're going to have a day at church to just think about her, to talk about her, you know have a bit of a laugh about the things she used to do and say and even though I wish she were here, I'm looking forward to talking with others about the person she is.

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Read by a member of the Cathedral Community*

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Isaiah 61. 1-4)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23**

*Sung by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral*

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall feed me in a green pasture:  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.  
He shall convert my soul:  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.  
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:  
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.  
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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.

*Chant: Charles Hylton Stewart (1884-1932)*

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Read by a member of the Cathedral Community*

A reading from the Revelation to John. (Revelation 21. 1-7)

I, John, 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 Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of 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.**

## SERMON

*Given by Rev Mia Kyte Hilborn*

*Hospitaller, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust*

Let us pray.

Christ yesterday and today,  
the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega;  
all time belongs to him,  
and all ages;  
to him be the glory,  
through every age and in every life,  
for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**

## INTERCESSIONS

*Led by the Very Rev Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's*

Let us pray to God the Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has shared our sorrows and our joys.

We give thanks for those people of every age who have inspired us on our journey through life, and we pray for the courage to follow in their footsteps.  
Keep us faithful to our heavenly calling.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

We give thanks for those who are supplying our daily needs in these challenging and uncertain times, and we pray for our local and national leaders and all who advise them.  
Help us to care for one another in this hour of need.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

We give thanks for the skill and dedication of our healthcare professionals, and we pray for an end to this pandemic.  
Let us trust that this too will pass.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

We give thanks for the gift of life, and we pray for all whose health is marred by sickness of body or mind.  
May we all know life in abundance.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

We give thanks for those who shared their earthly lives with us, and we pray for all who mourn their passing.  
Bring us safely, with those we love, to your heavenly home.

Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.

## **ANTHEM**

*Sung by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral*

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening  
into the house and gate of heaven,  
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,  
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,  
but one equal light;  
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;  
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;  
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;  
in the habitation of thy glory and dominion,  
world without end. Amen.

*Words: John Donne (1572-1631), Dean of St Paul's (1621-31)  
Music: William H. Harris (1883-1973)*

## **ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**

*The Bishop says*

Jesus said, 'This is the will of him who sent me  
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me  
and I shall raise them up on the last day.'

Let us remember before God those who have died, whom we have known and loved but  
see no longer, remembering especially those who have died during this pandemic, and  
those whose names are memorialised in the "Remember Me" online Book of  
Remembrance, hosted here at St Paul's Cathedral.

*Silence is kept during which images are shown of those memorialised in the Remember Me  
online Book of Remembrance.*

Almighty and eternal God,  
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,  
either by death or life:  
Hear our prayers and thanksgiving  
for all whom we remember this day;  
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;  
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **TESTIMONY**

### *An Everyday Faith participant speaks of hope and resurrection*

Hello, I'm Jenny Stanton, and live in Penwortham, near Preston, Lancashire and I'm a member of St Leonard's Church in Penwortham. My husband Melvyn died two years ago, after suffering from Parkinson's disease for twenty-three years. He managed to remain in his job for the first ten years, and then gradually declined. Our faith upheld us both during this time, as we both attended Sunday and Wednesday Eucharist when we could. I had to go alone at times if Melvyn wasn't ready or fit to go.

Just being in church at the services with the congregation had a restful calming effect, giving us both the strength to carry on, knowing God is there, holding and helping us whatever we have to face. When Melvyn died God gave me strength to do the things I needed to. The Sunday after Melvyn died I went to church and the organist played 'What a friend we have in Jesus', which was one of the hymns Melvyn had picked for his funeral, was very comforting, it proved God was in action. I missed going into church earlier this year when we were in lockdown, we still had the service sheet sent by email, so we could all take part at the same time. And it didn't matter that we couldn't go to church, but once we could go back for services I found it very comforting.

Things are getting back to normal, although a different normal. Services of remembering have been important to me, for many years, to remember and reflect on people I have known and who have helped me in many ways, nurturing me on my path. I remember and think of all these people at various times. At All Souls' Day brings them into our minds, and we can give thanks to God for all their care, love and friendship. Since Melvyn has died I still talk to him and ask him questions, and he is with me through life, and I give thanks for the life we spent together, remembering all the good times we shared, and thanking God for the time we had. My children and grandchildren have given me a great help during this time, and still give me great pleasure. I would like to finish with the Nunc Dimittis, which always reminds me of attending church with mum and dad in my teenage years.

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.

Take care, and God bless.

### **HYMN**

Jerusalem the golden  
*Sung by the choir of St Paul's*

Jerusalem the golden,  
With milk and honey blest,  
Beneath thy contemplation  
Sink heart and voice opprest.  
I know not, O I know not,  
What social joys are there,  
What radiancy of glory,  
What light beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Sion,  
Conjubilant with song,  
And bright with many an angel,  
And all the martyr throng;  
The Prince is ever in them,  
The daylight is serene,  
The pastures of the blessèd  
Are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David,  
And there, from care released,  
The song of them that triumph,  
The shout of them that feast;  
And they who, with their Leader,  
Have conquered in the fight,  
For ever and for ever  
Are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessèd country,  
Shall I ever see thy face?  
O sweet and blessèd country,  
Shall I ever win thy grace?  
Exult, O dust and ashes!  
The Lord shall be thy part:  
His only, his for ever,  
Thou shalt be, and thou art!

Words: (NEH 381) Bernard of Cluny 12<sup>th</sup> century and Hymns A & M editors 1861  
Tune: Ewing, adapted from a tune by Alexander Ewing 1853

## FAREWELL AND BLESSING

*The Bishop says*

Thank you for being part of this Service of Remembrance.

In a few moments, we will hear the organ of St Paul's Cathedral, you will be invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one who has died. But first, let us pray for God's Blessing.

May God give you  
and all those whom you love  
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 you, and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*During which those participating are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one who has died.*

*Psalm Prelude (Op. 32, No 2) By Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

'But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth: and shall be refreshed in the multitude of peace.' (Psalm 37, v.11)

Please visit the [Church of England Website](#) to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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*Music performed by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral.*

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*Bible readings accessed from <https://bible.oremus.org/> (New Revised Standard Version).*