



**St. Mark's &
Putnoe Heights Church
Bedford**



**Service of Commemoration
of the Faithful Departed**

Preacher

The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman

Verse from Scripture

Jesus said, Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest *Matthew Chapter 11:28*

Opening Prayer

O gracious Lord, enable us to listen lovingly to your word. May we console each other with the message you proclaim. So may we find light in darkness and faith in the midst of doubt. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Prayers of Penitence

You bring good news to the poor. You proclaim freedom to the prisoner, sight for the blind and release for those who are oppressed. Free your people

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner. You renew life beyond death with unending mercy, by your Spirit make us one people.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

You care for the living and promise a share in your inheritance to all who put their trust in you. Work blessing in the midst of trouble for all who put their trust in you

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

O God, the maker and redeemer of all believers, grant us with all your 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 them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Minister

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Offering

(This will be used in the ministry towards the bereaved)

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Bible Readings

Genesis Chapter 28 v 10 - 18

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

'This is the Word of the Lord' **All Thanks be to God**

John Chapter 14 v 1 - 6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me.

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

'This is the Word of the Lord' **All Thanks be to God**

Sermon

The Reverend Dr Sam Cappleman

A Service of Light

We remember before God those whom we love and light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. Jesus said,

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

You O Lord are my lamp

You turn our darkness into light

With you O Lord is the well of life

In your light shall we see light

Jesus Christ is the light of the world

A light no darkness can quench

Hymn

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee:
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee:
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee:
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee:
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

Prayers

In peace let us pray to the Lord.....

Jesus, Bread from Heaven, you satisfy the hungry with good things:

grant us a share with all the faithful departed in the banquet of your kingdom. Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Jesus, the Light of the World, you gave the man born blind the gift of sight and opened the eyes of his faith: bring those in darkness to your eternal light and glory.

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Jesus, Son of the Living God, you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life: raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.

Hear us, risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Jesus, Crucified Saviour, in your dying you entrusted each to the other Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple: sustain and

comfort all who mourn.

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

Jesus, our Way and Truth and Life, you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith: reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.

Hear us risen Lord, **our resurrection and our life**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

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. **Amen**

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Blessing

Christ makes saints of sinners, he has transformed those we remember today, in him all creation will be liberated and restored from bondage and decay to the glorious freedom of the children of God.

May he raise and strengthen you this day, and may the blessing of God Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you and those you love, this day and evermore. **AMEN.**

During our service there will be an opportunity to light a candle, why do we do this ?

Lighting a candle is a prayer:

When we have gone it stays alight, kindling in the hearts and minds of others the prayers we have already offered for them

Lighting a candle is a parable:

burning itself out it gives light to others.
Christ gave himself for others.
He calls us to give ourselves.

Lighting a candle is a symbol:

of love and hope, of light and warmth.
Our world needs them all.



For your information

Please do feel able to visit the Garden of Remembrance after this service. There is currently a considerable amount of building work taking place and so access should be made through the church fire exit. There is a temporary entrance at the top of Calder Rise.

We have this year obtained additional land to extend our Garden and work will commence in the next few weeks to make a beautiful new entrance at the front of the church and considerable enhancements.

The Chapel at St. Mark's is open each day during daylight hours for quiet reflection and private prayer. The Book of Remembrance is located in the Chapel and is therefore easily accessible to those who visit the Garden of Remembrance.

If you have not yet had an entry recorded in the Book of Remembrance then please contact Mrs Mary Stubbs who will be pleased to help you. There is no charge for this service and Mary will be available to speak with you after this service. Members of our pastoral visiting scheme will also be present after the service and we will be pleased to arrange to visit you.

Copies of our booklet dealing with bereavement and other free literature are available at the back of church after the service when tea and coffee will be served. We hope that you will be able to stay and look forward to meeting with you.