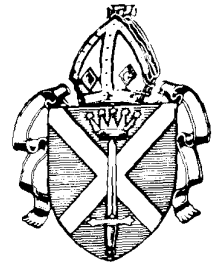




**St. Mark's &
Putnoe Heights Church**



**Service of Commemoration
of the Faithful Departed
2004**

St Mark's Church
November 14
3.00pm

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth
in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever
liveth and believeth in me shall never die
John Chapter 11 Verse 25

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 *(Tune:Banks and Braes)*

We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help,
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.

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, if you are a tax payer please use the gift aid envelopes to enable us to recover the tax)

The offering is presented..

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

Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

The reader will say 'This is the Word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God**

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The reader will say 'This is the Word of the Lord
All **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

The Reverend Neil Bramble Chapman

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

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly

Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

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 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

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 shoulders 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.

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.

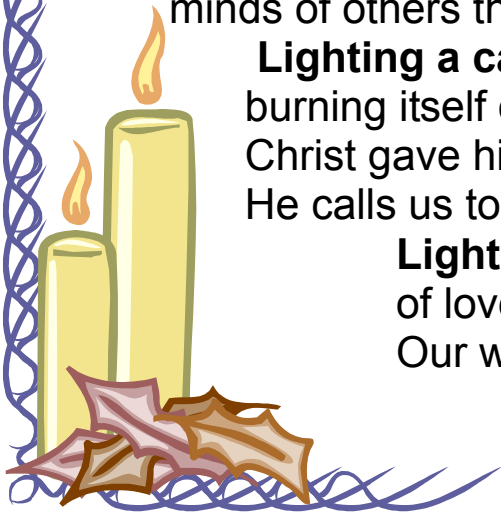
Christ gave himself for others.

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. The extension to our Garden was consecrated this year and we are now able to offer commemorative wall plaques as well as interment in the Garden.

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. Please feel free to take this service sheet home with you.