



Methodist
Church

St Mark's and Putnoe Heights Church, Bedford



Church of
England

A Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Sunday 9 November at 3.00pm
St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Bedford

Preacher

The Reverend Charles Royden

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

Welcome
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

Gracious Lord, as we gather, give us faith to listen to your holy word, so that we may find new strength as we place our trust in you. May we find consolation in the good news of your message of love for humankind. Bring light in our darkness and faith in the midst of our doubt. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, 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.

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**

Father of all, we are your people and you are our God. In our sadness, wipe away the tears from our eyes. Forgive us when we do not draw strength from the reassurance of your promise of life beyond death, a time when there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. May we know in our hearts that you will reunite us with those we love. You are Alpha and the Omega, Beginning and the End, as you make all things new, so take our pain and sorrow and set us free to trust in your unending mercy and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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.**

Bible Readings

Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help?
My help cometh even from the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep. Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand. So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: Neither the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: Yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth and for evermore.

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

John Chapter 14 Verses 1-6

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going 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, so that where I am there you may be also. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said unto him, "Lord, we know not where you are going, how can we know the way?" Jesus said unto him, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one cometh unto the Father except through me.

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

Sermon

Service of Light

Minister:

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

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

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 Mary your mother, and John your beloved disciple to care for each other: 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 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.

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.**

Music

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'. And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'

Minnie Louise Haskins *God knows*

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.

