

Bulletin for Sunday 11 September 2022

Good morning friends.

On the death of Her Majesty the Queen, we give thanks for the grace of God shown in her life and faith, and we remember in our prayers those who will miss her the most.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing our first hymn:

Hymn: Immortal, invisible, God only wise (R&S 67)

Prayers: O God, as we come to worship you today
we give thanks for our many blessings,
and especially for your servant Elizabeth.
We thank you for her long life and dedicated service.
We thank you for the wisdom and steadiness
which she brought to public life.
And we thank you for the example of her faith
and the way it influenced her life -
rejoicing that she heard a call to serve
and followed her vocation.....
We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and on everything we give in your service,
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Readings: Luke 15: 1-10

Reflection:

A farmer or a banker might complain that these parables are not sensible. Why risk many for the sake of just one? But that was precisely the point that Jesus was making. He tried over and over again to make people understand that God's grace is extravagant - unreasonably extravagant. Jesus eating with sinners is deliberately an example of that. God's love is for all, and that means that nobody can be lost and not searched for; everyone matters so much that all must be found, cared for and loved. Christ is truly the Good Shepherd, and we follow in those footsteps.

It was from her Christian faith and understanding of this truth that the Queen's service sprung, and from it has come much good. She was indeed a blessing to this country. For all of us her death will change the world as we have known it, but for her family she died a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and we remember in our prayers all those who are bereaved - may they find space to grieve, and consolation.

Hymn: The King of love my Shepherd is (R&S 552)

Prayers: Loving God, as we remember Queen Elizabeth and her very long life and reign, it brings to mind for us all the past that has gone. We pray for those who will miss her deeply, especially her family and those close to her, that they may find comfort and hope. We also affirm our faith that death is not the end, but that new life awaits your children. At this time of change and uncertainty we pray that your blessing may rest on our nation, on the Commonwealth family of nations, and especially on our new King. We hold before you our own communities: those who are sick or in need of care, those who fear the future, and especially those struggling to pay for basic necessities.... We hold out to you those we love and worry about, knowing that you understand, and you care. In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers, including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness (R&S 96)

Blessing: May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and with all those we love, this week, and always. Amen

Sunday at Six service on Zoom at 6pm this Sunday as usual - all welcome.

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