Memorial Service
Celebrating the Life of

Shirley Watson

Service held on Monday 28th October 2024
The Church of St James the Great, Jamestown

For the congregation

Human beings have sensed the mystery of death, and the pain of grief, since time immemorial. Every society has developed rites to mark the passage from life through death, and to commemorate the dead. Today we do this through the memorial service, and the rites by which we lay Shirley to rest.

The wounds of grief need time and care to heal. The funeral may help this process, by enabling us to acknowledge our loss, give thanks for the life of the person who has died, make our last farewell, and begin to take up life once more.

Christians believe in God, the source and giver of life. God's Good News proclaims Jesus Christ to be our living Lord, who laid down his life for us. He knew death, yet triumphed over it, drawing its sting, and was raised by God to new life. Christians affirm the presence of the Spirit of Christ, who helps us in our weakness. Yet we, with all mortals, still face death. Those who put their trust in Christ share the sufferings of their Lord, even in the midst of God's love and care.

A Christian memorial service proclaims the Christian hope in the face of death—Jesus Christ, whose resurrection is the promise of our own.

The service in outline is as follows:
We gather in the presence of God,
and remember the person who has died.
We listen and respond to the Word of God.
and proclaim the death and resurrection of Christ.
We give thanks for the life now ended,
and pray for those in need.
We leave the deceased in God's care,
and we continue life's journey.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME AND REMEMBERING

The priest greets the congregation

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The priest continues

We have come together
to thank God for the life of Shirley Watson
to mourn and honour her,
and to support one another in grief.
We face the certainty of our own death and judgement.
Yet Christians believe that those who die in Christ
share eternal life with him.
Therefore in faith and hope we turn to God,
who created and sustains us all.

Placing of Symbols

Symbols of Shirley's Christian life.

The Candle: Light immortal, you brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. May we, with Shirley and all the baptised, know the full light of your risen presence. Amen.

The Water: In the waters of baptism we died with Christ, and began to walk in newness of lfe. May we, with Shirley and all the baptised, be brought to the fulfillment of your eternal kingdom. Amen.

The Cross: Lord Jesus Christ you bore our sins on the cross. May this cross be a sign to us of your love for Shirley, and the forgiveness of her sins.

The Scriptures: In life Shirley was nourished by the Word of God. May Christ greet us, with Shirley, saying: Come, blessed of my Father! Amen.

Hymn: O when the saints go marching in

O when the saints go marching in,
O when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in!

O when they crown Him Lord of all,
O when they crown Him Lord of all;
O Lord, I want to be among the number
When they crown Him Lord of all.

O when all knees bow at His name,
O when all knees bow at His name,
O Lord, I want to be among the number
When all knees bow at His name.

O when they sing the Saviour's praise,
O when they sing the Saviour's praise,
O Lord, I want to be among the number
When they sing the Saviour's praise.

O when the saints go marching in,
O when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in!

Traditional

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord
"Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet will they live." *John 11.25*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3.22-23

All pray together

Loving God, you alone are the source of life.
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,
and fill us with compassion, one for another.
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Eulogy

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.
He shall refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff comfort me.
You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me
all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A reading from the Gospel of John chapter 14: 1-6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth , and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

(NRSV John 14.1-6)

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Homily: The Rev'd Wendy Cooper

The Prayers - *We give thanks for Shirley's life and pray for all who mourn her death.*

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father,
who raised Jesus Christ from the dead for the salvation of all.

The Farewell

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to Shirley
by water and the Spirit.
Grant that her death may recall to us your victory
over death, and be an occasion for us
to renew our trust in your Father's love.
Give us, we pray, the faith to follow
where you have led the way,
to live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Let us entrust Shirley to the mercy of God.

Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.
We entrust Shirley to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Jesus Christ,
who died and rose again to save us,
and now lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. Amen.

Support us, 0 Lord, all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: Abide with me

1 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

3 I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

4 I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness:
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte
1793– 1847 alt

The Blessing and Benediction

The blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be with you now and forevermore. Amen.

Please remain standing as Shirleys's ashes are taken from the Church. The service will end with the Committal at the Jamestown Cemetery. Shirley's *family asks that only family come to the cemetery. Thank you for your attendance today and for sharing with them in this service in remembrance of Shirley.*

At the Graveside

Greeting

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord:
so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
For to this end Christ died and lived again,
so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
Romans 14.8-9

THE COMMITTAL

You, 0 Lord, are full of compassion and mercy:
slow to anger and of great goodness.
As a father cares for his children:
so is your care, 0 Lord, for those who fear you.
For you know of what we are made:
you remember that we are but dust.
Our days are like the grass:
we flourish like a flower of the field;
When the wind goes over it, it is gone:
and its place will know it no more.
But your loving-kindness, 0 Lord
endures for ever and ever
on those that fear you:
and your righteousness on their children's children.

Committal prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father
you have given us a sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to eternal life.
In your keeping are all who have departed in Christ.
We here commit the ashes of our dear sister Shirley
to be buried in the ground.
earth to earth. ashes to ashes, dust to dust:

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died, and was buried and rose again for us, and who shall change our mortal body that it may be like his glorious body.

Committal response

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us.

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.

Prayer after Committal

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy for us
you turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.
Be our refuge and strength in sorrow.
As your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us conquered death,
and by rising again restored us to life,
so may we go forward in faith to meet him,
and after our life on earth be united with our dear brothers and

sisters in Christ
where every tear will be wiped away.
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

for Shirley

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine on you,
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance on you,
and give you peace. **Amen.**

for the congregation

The blessing of God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you,
for ever more.

Go in peace in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

KATHLEEN SHIRLEY WATSON

(nee Swearse)

Born 12th February 1931
Entered into Rest 3rd October 2024

Loving Wife of
Edmund Ralph (deceased)

Loving mother and mother-in-law of
Lynlee and Graham

Loving grandmother and
great grandmother to many

Thank you for attending today and for your messages of love and support.

Lynlee and family

Officiating: The Reverend Wendy Cooper, Local Priest at Jamestown

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