St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden
Sunday 18 April 2021

A Service of Commemoration for His Royal Highness

Prince Philip

Duke of Edinburgh

Introduction

The service begins as the Choir sings the hymn, "Eternal Father, strong to save."

Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm, amid its rage, didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the waters dark and rude,
and bid their angry tumult cease,
and give, for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and pow'r,
our brethren shield in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereso'er they go,
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

William Whiting (1825-1878) alt.

The minister reads these sentences

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:38, 39*

Christ has risen from the dead,
by death he has trampled on death
and to those in the graves he has given life. *Orthodox Easter Hymn*

Minister: In the name of Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father, grace, mercy and peace be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The minister may introduce the service with these or other words

We meet this day to remember before God His Royal Highness Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our prayers and praises to the Father.

Then the minister says

O God, make speed to save us.

All: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls: you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life.

As you give light to those in darkness, who walk in the shadow of death, so remember in your kingdom your faithful servant Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, that death may be for him the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love, now and for ever. **Amen**.

All: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Readings and Reflection

The Choir sing Psalm 107:23-32

They that go down to the sea in ships: and occupy their business in great waters; These men see the works of the Lord: and his wonders in the deep. For at his word the stormy wind ariseth: which lifteth up the waves thereof. They are carried up to the heaven, and down again to the deep: their soul melteth away because of the trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man: and are at their wits' end. So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble: he delivereth them out of their distress. For he maketh the storm to cease: so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad, because they are at rest: and so he bringeth them unto the haven where they would be. O that men would therefore praise the Lord for his goodness: and declare the wonders that he doeth for the children of men! That they would exalt him also in the congregation of the people: and praise him in the seat of the elders!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen

The Lesson is read: Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and

the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

The Choir sing the Anthem "Thou knowest, Lord" by Henry Purcell, a funeral anthem for Queen Mary.

"Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
Shut not thy merciful ears unto our pray'rs;
But spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
Thou most worthy Judge eternal,
Suffer us not at our last hour,
For any pains of death to fall away from Thee."

The minister gives the Address

Prayers

Minister: Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
All: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

***All*: 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.

Minster: The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,

***All*: And there shall no torment touch them.**

Minister: You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

***All*: My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.**

Minster: I will walk before the Lord

***All*: In the land of the living.**

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of His Royal Highness Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, for the love he received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Philip that clearer vision, promised to us in the same Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, the members of the Royal Family, this Nation and all the Nations of the Commonwealth, that casting all our care on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

O Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us to know that it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through him who, for the finishing of thy work, laid down his life for us, even our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

based on the prayer of Sir Francis Drake (c. 1540–1596)

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

Collect for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate on you,
and a life to proclaim you;
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

St Benedict (c. 480–543)

Commendation

Into your hands, O Father and Lord, we commend your servant, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Enlighten him with your holy grace
and suffer him never to be separated from you, O Lord in Trinity,
God everlasting.

After St Edmund of Abingdon (1170–1240)

The Kontakion for the Departed is said

**Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of man: and we are mortal, formed from the dust of earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, 'Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.' All we go down to the dust; and weeping o'er the grave we make our song: Alleluya, alleluya, alleluya.

**Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Orthodox Kontakion for the departed

The Choir sing the Hymn "O God, our help in ages past"

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
will bear us all away;
we fade and vanish, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) alt.

The Ending

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

The National Anthem (*Please stand as the Choir sings)*

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.

Please sit for the organ voluntary before we depart.

Sunset - anon, arr Captain A C Green
Westering Home - Scottish traditional

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