

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF

Judith Anne Howarth

18TH FEBRUARY 1940 - 13TH OCTOBER 2023

ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WEST ARMIDALE

11AM MONDAY, 23RD OCTOBER 2023

"Born to eternal life"



"Judy"

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

GREETING AND WELCOME

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. - *Matthew 5:4*

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*

Let us pray together

Heavenly Father,

in your Son Jesus Christ

you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.

**Help us to live as those who believe in the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

and the resurrection to eternal life;

through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN | Words: Ian Howarth written for Judy's funeral

1 Gracious Lord and heavenly Father
thank you for the life you give,
presence here infused with Spirit,
breath of life your precious gift.
In reflecting on all given,
hope for everlasting days.
Help us to recall with wonder,
gifts that lift our hearts in praise.

2 Life that starts in veiled mystery,
from within the womb comes light,
born of water, living life force,
guiding journey, day and night;
growing sense of understanding,
what our lives can truly mean,
as we ponder life's dimensions,
now and then eternally.

3 Christ who bore our sins most solely,
dying then upon the cross,
raised in glory and ascending,
shows us all a way from loss.
In response to loving journey,
that both saints and sinners live,
we extol the Saviours mercy,
look to God who here forgives.

4 Life eternal is Christ's offering,
peace from ills and human foes,
perfectly it is in giving,
from an empty tomb it grows.
Out into a world in need of
such a love, that's seen, and where
we commend those gone before us,
home in God's perpetual care.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (15:50-58)

Read by Rebecca Moore

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'

'Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shepherd:

therefore can I lack nothing.

He will make me lie down in green pastures:

and lead me beside still waters.

He will 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 face of those who trouble me:

you have anointed my head with oil and my cup will 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.

Glory to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

as in the beginning so now and for ever. Amen.

A READING FROM GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (14:1-7)

Read by Roslyn Sewell

‘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. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

EULOGY & ADDRESS | The Rev’d Canon Ian Howarth

HYMN | I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one lay down
your head upon my breast.’
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Behold I freely give
the living water, thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.’
I came to Jesus and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say
‘I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise
and all your day be bright.’
I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1808-89)



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Rev. Brian Kirk (Hospital & Aged Care Chaplain)

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

COMMITTAL

Let us commend the soul of Judy Howarth to the love and mercy of God.

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 body of our dear sister Judy, to be cremated; 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. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal Father, 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 in strength and 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. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN | Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go

1 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know,
in all I think or speak, or do.

2 The task thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.

3 Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance see,
and labour on at my command,
and offer all my works to thee.

4 Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day.

5 For thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1778)

*This hymn was sung at Judy's Commissioning for Missionary Service with ABM in PNG,
held St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney, 1965.*

BLESSING

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
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



*Now Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.*

*My own eyes have seen the salvation:
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
a light to reveal you to the nations:
and the glory of your people Israel.*

*Judy's family thank you for your presence here today, for your expression of condolences and care.
Following her Funeral Service all are welcome to the St Mary's Hall for light refreshments.*



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