

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH EAST ST KILDA

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

for the life of

Margaret Alice Laurence McLaren

27 October 1935 — 11 July 2026



Tuesday 28 July 2026, 10.00 a.m.

INTRODUCTION & OPENING PRAYER

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.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord.
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours.

The Lord be with you;
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy handmaid, Margaret, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN



- 1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
 Forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
 In deeper reverence praise,
 In deeper reverence praise.
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,
 Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
 Rise up and follow thee,
 Rise up and follow thee.
- 3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
 O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
 Interpreted by love,
 Interpreted by love!
- 4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
 Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
 The beauty of thy peace,
 The beauty of thy peace.

- 5 Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm,
O still small voice of calm!

John Whittier (1807–1892)

Tune: Repton – C. Hubert H. Parry (1848–1918), from a song in his oratorio *Judith*

Please sit.

THE EULOGY

Fergus and Louise McLaren

PHOTO PRESENTATION

HYMN



- 1 The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine for ever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.



- 4 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.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth:
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

H. W. Baker (1821–1877)

Tune: St Columba – Irish Melody (Petrie Collection)

FIRST READING

read by Jo McCallum

1 Thessalonians 4: 13–18

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

SECOND READING

read by Jenny Tucker

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, 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, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." And 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 from the fountain of the water of life without payment. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

ADDRESS

Fr René Knaap

HYMN



- 1 Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.



- 2 O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

German, *Nun danket alle Gott*, Martin Rinkart (1586–1649) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)

Tune: Nun danket – Melody in Johann Crüger (1598–1662), *Praxis Pietatis Melica* c. 1647; harmony chiefly from Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* 1840

PRAYERS

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church throughout the world, thy light and thy peace. **Amen.**

Grant that all who have been baptised into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. **Amen.**

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust Margaret to thy never-failing love; receive her into the arms of thy mercy, and remember her according to the favour which thou bearest unto thy people. **Amen.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, she may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please stand.

COMMENDATION

Let us pray.

As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

Into thy hands, O Lord, we commend thy handmaid Margaret, our dear sister, as into the hands of a faithful Creator and most merciful Saviour, beseeching thee that she may be precious in thy sight. Wash her, we pray thee, in the blood of that immaculate Lamb that was slain to take away the sins of the world; that, whatsoever defilements she may have contracted in the midst of this earthly life being purged and done away, she may be presented pure and without spot before thee; through the merits of Jesus Christ thine only Son our Lord. **Amen.**

The Body is censed and sprinkled with holy water.

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

Into thy hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend thy servant, Margaret. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

COMMITTAL

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity: We give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants, who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labours. And we beseech thee that we, with all those who are departed in the true faith of thy holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon her.

May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

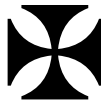
BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight.

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

The celebrant leads the procession from the church.

The congregation is asked to follow and stand in silence until the hearse departs.



A private burial follows.

Following the service, you are warmly invited to share in refreshments in the church hall.

Organist: Christopher Cook



Margaret Alice Laurence McLaren was an amazing Mum and Wife, the linchpin of the Tucker family, such a close friend and a 'beacon light' standard for us all. Margaret was irreplaceable and a hole will be left in all our lives. God guide and bless her.