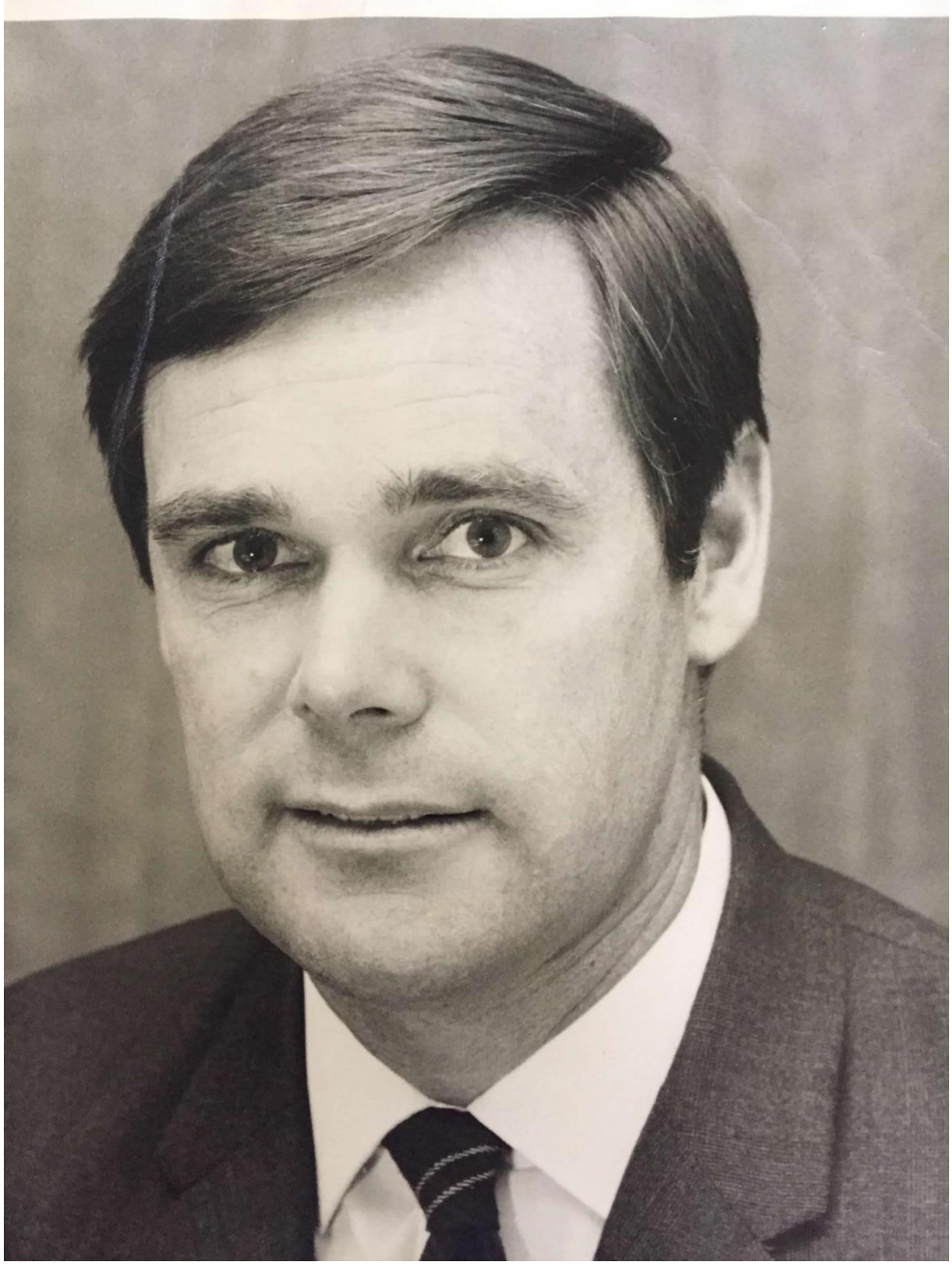
A service for the repose of the soul of

Geoffrey Strafford Sutherland

19 June 1931 – 20 September 2026



St Peter's Eastern Hill
Wednesday 7th October at 11am

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 funeral service, and the rites by which we lay a person's body 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 funeral 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.
We give thanks for the life now ended.
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

Music before the service: Graeme Koenhe (b. 1956)

To his servant Bach, God grants a final glimpse: The Morning Star

Opening hymn ***STAND***

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
As thou hast been thou for ever will be:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided –
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided –
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided –
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

The priest welcomes the congregation.

Eulogies will be offered by ***SIT***

Andrew Sutherland, Christopher Sutherland and Fiona Harwich

After the eulogies the priest says ***STAND***

'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*

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

We have come together to thank God for the life of *Geoffrey,*
to mourn and honour him,
to commend him to God,
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.

All join with the priest in saying

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.

Hymn

Amazing grace! - how sweet the sound -
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

And, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

SIT

1 Corinthians 13.1-13 *read by William Sutherland*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 23 *The Lord's my Shepherd* (Goodall), sung by the choir

John 14.1–7 *read by Elizabeth Wilson*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John

Jesus said, '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
Thanks be to God

Homily: *Robert Sutherland* *SIT*

Reflection Gabirel Fauré (1845-1924) *In Paradisum*
from the *Requiem in D Minor*

The priest leads the prayers

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

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you have made us in your image to reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for *Geoff and Margaret,*
for the grace and mercy they received from you,
for all that was good in their lives,
for the memories we treasure today.

You promised eternal life to those who believe.
Remember for good this your servant *Geoff,*
as we also remember him.
Bring all who rest in Christ into the fullness of your kingdom
where sins have been forgiven and death is no more.

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death.
Look in mercy on *Geoff's* family and all who mourn.
Give them patient faith in times of darkness.
Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

You are tender towards your children
and your mercy is over all your works.
Heal the memories of hurt and failure.
Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright
the time that is left to us here on earth,
to turn to Christ and follow in his steps
in the way that leads to everlasting life.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

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.

THE FAREWELL

The priest says

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our brother *Geoff*
by water and the Spirit.
Grant that his 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**.

The priest says

Let us entrust our brother *Geoff* to the mercy of God.

All say

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 *Geoff* 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.

Hymn

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 to-day.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessèd 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.

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. Amen.

During the hymn the casket is sprinkled with holy water (recalling Geoff's and Margaret's baptism), and honoured with incense.

THE BLESSING

The Priest says
May God give you his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy, in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

A piper will play as the casket is carried out of church.

