ST STEPHEN'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
RICHMOND

REQUIEM EUCHARIST

offered for the life of

The Reverend

DAVID JOHN CONOLLY

5th April 1937 – 19th September 2026



11.00 am, Friday 2nd October 2026

Presider:	The Reverend Dr. Nick White
Deacon:	The Reverend Dr. Paul Dalzell
Preacher:	The Right Reverend Kate Prowd
Intercessions:	The Reverend Grant Edgcumbe
Committal:	The Venerable Ray McInnes
Organist:	Mr Rhys Arvidson
Pianist:	Mr Ned Fairlie
Singers:	Phoebe DeKlerk, Cecilia Fairlie, Ned Fairlie, Stewart Armitage
Setting:	Parish Eucharist, Michael Dudman

David has asked that there be no eulogies other than the sermon. He has given us the following outline of his life to read instead.

David was born in 1937 in Dodoma, Tanzania, the son of missionary parents, George and Jean Conolly. His family, on both sides, was heavily populated by clergy – his father, both grandfathers, six uncles, umpteen cousins – not to mention a bevy of lay missionaries. There were two bishops.

Raised in a Sydney rectory, he attended Cranbrook School 1942-54, where he distinguished himself only by performances in school plays (once as Lady Macbeth, once as Joe Byrne of the Kelly Gang) and by managing to fail the Leaving Certificate on both occasions he sat for it. His school years were largely unhappy ones, not helped by his emerging sexuality. He was gay, didn't understand it, and no help was available. Growing up gay in the 1940s and 50s was bewildering – and painful. It led to a lifelong, complex, and often conflicted, relationship with the church. Not, however, with the God of grace to whom he sought to give his life in service.

School was followed by several years in a variety of jobs – shop assistant, clerk, hospital orderly, factory worker, grocery packer, junior department store manager.

He moved to Melbourne in 1956, where he joined the staff of the Victoria Mission to Seamen. In 1959, while working for Myer and living with his dear friends the Spencer-Hogbins in Armadale and attending Holy Advent Church, he was disturbed to detect what seemed to be an inner call to serve in the ordained ministry. All attempts at ignoring the call met with failure and he finally entered St. John's Theological College, Morpeth in 1961, graduating in 1963. Ordained by the saintly Archbishop Frank Woods in 1964, he served curacies in Glenroy and Cheltenham under the loving guidance of two inspirational priests, Randal Deasey and George Lucas. In 1967 he set off to try his hand in the wider world.

He landed a job in St. Martin's Church, Charlotte, North Carolina USA. It was a turbulent time in that nation's story – the height of the civil rights movement. It was an experience that was to change a great deal in his understanding of the Christian faith. From now on, social justice, peace, and the equality of all God's creation were to form the heart of the gospel for him. In later years he became actively involved in movements seeking justice for Indigenous Australians, the LGBTIQ+ community and the ordination of women. Charlotte was followed by a short spell on the staff of an inner-city parish in London, St. Andrew's Willesden Green, all 'bells and smells' and eccentricity. Then back to Melbourne in 1970 for the long haul.

Vicar of three parishes between 1970 and 1999 – St. James' East Thornbury, St. John's East Malvern and St. Faith's Burwood – he came to experience the work of a parish priest as a time of deep learning and rich blessing. In 1986, by what can only be described as sacred mystery, a hitherto unknown relative, Githa Conolly, entered his life, and saved it from a downward depressive spiral. They shared six years of rich companionship in the Burwood vicarage until her death in 1994.

Retiring in 1999 (the result of an uncooperative body) David lived in a small house in inner-city Richmond. He beetled round on his electric 'scooter,' entertained a good deal, and preached from time to time back at Holy Advent, in his home church, St. Stephen's Richmond, and elsewhere, until prevented by failing eyesight and general health. The loving and selfless ministry of cousins Ros and Rob Daniel with their regular visits enabled him to continue living independently in his home, 'Githa.'

After cremation, David's ashes will be taken to Sydney to be interred beside those of his parents in the grave of his grandparents, Arnold and Agnes Conolly, in the historic graveyard of St. John's Church, Gordon.

For all that has been – Thanks!
To all that shall be – Yes! Dag Hammarskjöld

Gathering Hymn

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift divine
to our race so freely given,
graces all of your design,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the church that evermore,
lifting holy hands above,
offers up on every shore
the pure sacrifice of love,
Christ, our God, to you we raise
this our sacrifice of praise

The Lord be with you.

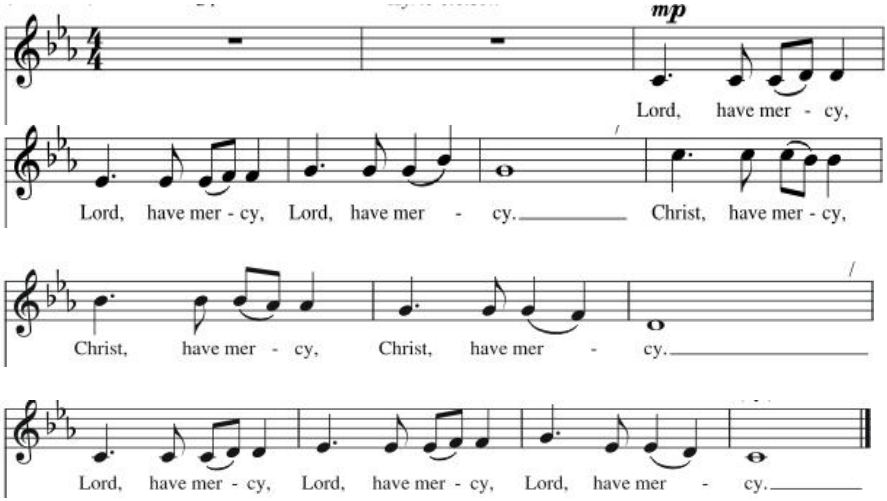
And also with you.

We have come together
to remember before God the life of David John Conolly
to commend him to God's keeping,
to commit his body to be cremated,
to comfort those who mourn
with our sympathy and with our love;
in the hope we share
through the death and resurrection
of Jesus Christ.

Welcome

Silence and piano reflection

Kyrie Eleison



Confession

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

God of the morning and the evening,
you are there at the drawing of our first breath,
you are there when we take our final journey:
may your embracing love
hold our grief
kindle our hope
and welcome David
into the fullness of your life.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
who died and rose again for all.
Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 25.6-9

Read by Elizabeth Conolly

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast
of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with
marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. 7 And he will destroy
on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet
that is spread over all nations; 8 he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the
disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the
Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we
have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for
whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory

Psalm 139.1-18

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know when I sit or when I stand,
you comprehend my thoughts long before.
2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:
you are acquainted with all my ways.
3 For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, Lord, know it altogether.
4 You have encompassed me behind and before:
and have laid your hand upon me.
5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot endure it.
6 Where shall I go from your spirit:
or where shall I flee from your presence?
7 If I ascend into heaven you are there:
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.
8 If I spread out my wings towards the morning:
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
9 Even there your hand shall lead me:
and your right hand shall hold me.
10 If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me:
and the night will enclose me',
11 The darkness is no darkness with you,
but the night is as clear as the day:
the darkness and the light are both alike.
12 For you have created my inward parts:
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
13 I will praise you, for you are to be feared:
fearful are your acts, and wonderful your works.
14 You knew my soul,
and my bones were not hidden from you:
when I was formed in secret,
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes saw my limbs when they were yet imperfect:
And in your book were all my members written;
16 Day by day they were fashioned:
and not one was late in growing.
17 How deep are your thoughts to me, O God:
and how great is the sum of them!
18 Were I to count them,
they are more in number than the sand:
were I to come to the end, I would still be with you.

1 Corinthians 13.8-13

Read by Lucy Daniel

8 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. 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 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. 12 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. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory

John 13.34-35

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
✠ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said to His disciples, [34] I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. [35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The Right Reverend Kate Prowd

Reflection

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,

When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Words: Alfred, Lord Tennyson
Music: Sir Hubert Parry

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Please offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave:
thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Prayer over the Gifts

Blessèd are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessèd be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand if you are able

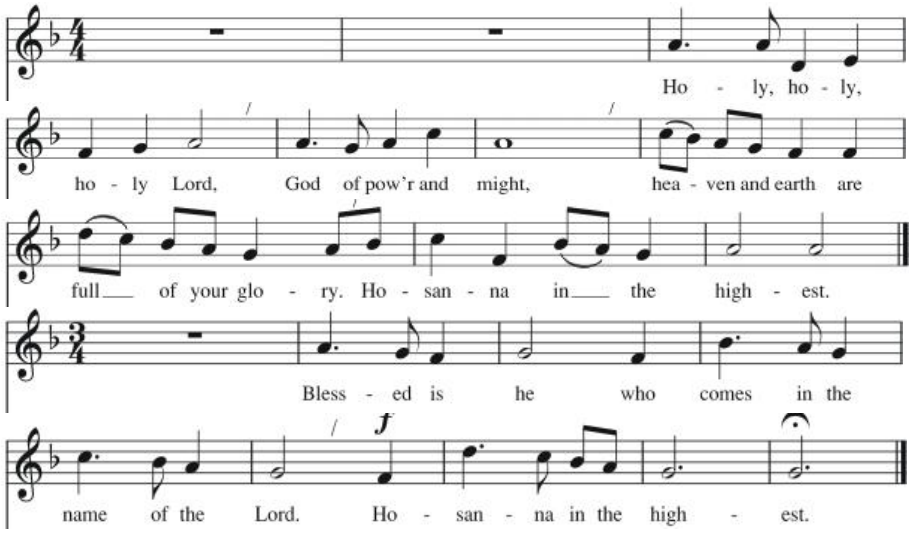
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

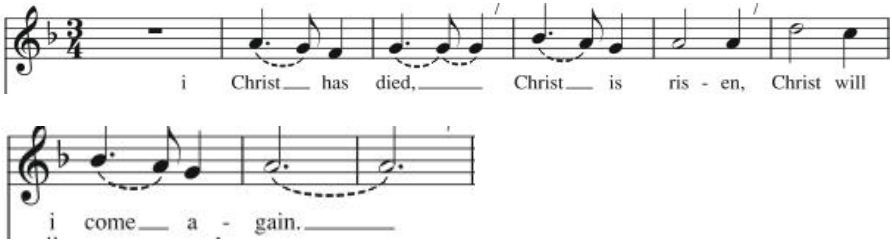
God of wind and flame, we praise your wild beauty
flying free in the shining air.
Your Spirit nurtured life in outrageous diversity;
she raised up judges to protect the weak,
made kings dance in ecstasy,
and prophets burn with holy anger.
Through the Spirit, the Word became flesh
and the world was called to hear his voice;
she drove him to the desert his first sure step
to victory over death and division.
When he left his followers, she was poured out on all flesh
and crossed the line between male and female,
slave and free, Jew and gentile.

She is with us now, bringing Christ near
filling our worship, guiding us in hope.
Therefore, with all God's rainbow people,
and all who have tasted the Spirit of life,
with the thirsty and the cold,
and all who long to dream again,
we worship your glory as heaven touches earth:
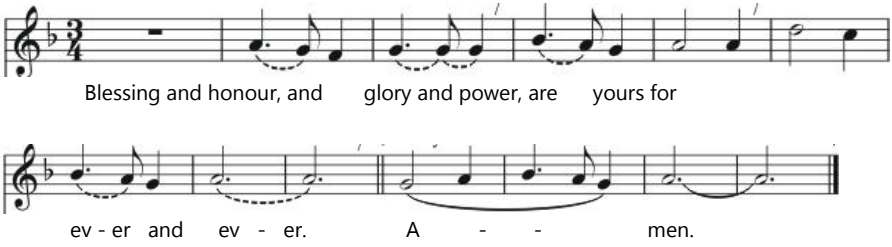


We ask that your Holy Spirit
will fall upon us and upon these gifts
that these fragile, earthly things
may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother,
Jesus Christ; who, on the night he was betrayed,
gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.
Calling them to his table, he took bread,
gave thanks broke it and said:
'This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'
In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.'
As on that night, so here and now
he offers himself in touch and taste
beyond all words can hold.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Therefore, in our eating and drinking
we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ;
we proclaim him as creation's host,
transforming poverty into plenty
in the reckless generosity of love.
Inspire us with the hope
that one day death and greed will be no more
and people without number
will come from east and west, north and south
to share the kingdom meal.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom and with whom and in whom
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Mother of blessings,
in songs of never-ending praise:



The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

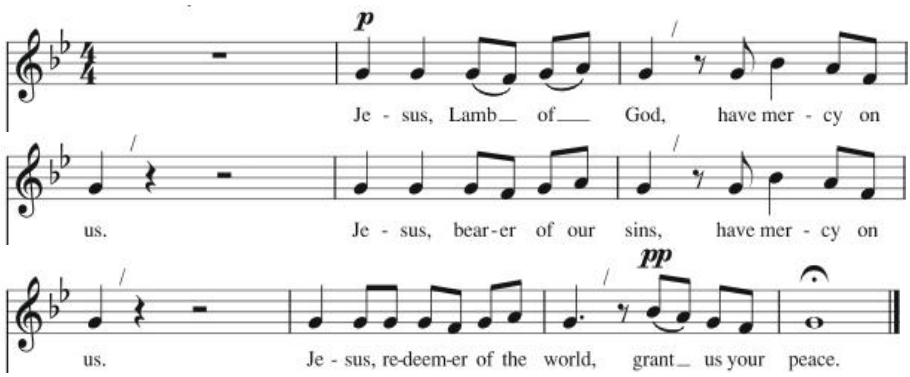
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei



Invitation to Holy Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts
be found in Christ and Christ in us.

All are welcome at the Lord's table.
If you would prefer a blessing rather than taking communion,
please cross your arms over your chest.

The Body/Blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Graeme Koehne (b. 1956) *To His servant Bach, God grants a final glimpse: The Morning Star*

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life and death,
we thank you that in your great love
you have given us this foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for David and all your saints.
Grant that this sacrament of Christ's death may be to us
a comfort in affliction,
a firm assurance of his resurrection,
and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom
where death and sorrow are no more,
but all things are made new. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

THE COMMENDATION AND COMMITTAL

Holding our love firmly, laying aside all regret gently,
we release David into the hands of God.
Let us commend David to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

God alone is holy and just and good.
In that confidence, we commend you, David
to God's mercy,
to God's forgiveness and love.
Blessed be God the Father,
who has caused the light of Christ to shine upon you.

The earthly life of David has come to an end,
we commit his body to be cremated
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
in the sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant unto David, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon him.

Go forth upon your journey from this world:
in the love of God the Father
who created you,
in the mercy of Jesus Christ
who redeemed you,
in the power of the Holy Spirit
who strengthened you.
In communion with all the faithful,
may you dwell this day in peace.
Amen.

The Kontakion of the Departed

The coffin is sprinkled with holy water as a reminder that, in the waters of baptism, David entered into the death of Christ that he might share in Christ's risen life. It is then honoured with incense, as our prayers for David rise to the heavens.

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 of the 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:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE BLESSING AND PROCESSION

Dear friends,
let us leave this place in quietness of spirit,
as we return to the living of our lives;
glad that we have loved,
free to weep in grief,
free to hold each other in our human frailty,
encouraged to live well.
Let us affirm the power of hope
that lives in God at the heart of our existence.

Bishop Kate pronounces God's blessing:

May the outrageous welcome of the Father
accept you for who you are;
may the incarnation of the Word
touch and hold you close;
may the wandering of the Spirit
help you risk yourselves for love;
and the blessing of God,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

Postlude

S. S. Wesley (1810-76) *Choral Song*

Please remain following the service for refreshments and story-telling.

Liturgy Words:

A Prayer Book for Australia, Broughton Publishing, 1995.
New Patterns for Worship, The Archbishops' Council, 2002.
Steven Shakespeare *Prayers & Blessings for an Inclusive Church,* Canterbury Press, 2025.

Scripture Readings:

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Hearing Loop:

There is a hearing aid loop in the church. Hearing aids need to be turned to the T setting.

Hymns:

For the beauty of the earth
Together in Song: 137

Love divine, all loves excelling
Together in Song: 217

Just as I am, without one plea
New English Hymnal: 294

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