

Ian Donald McPhee

1947-2025



ΑΡΕΤΑΣ ΓΕ ΜΕΝ ΟΥ ΜΙΝΥΘΕΙ ΒΡΟΤΩΝ ΑΜΑ ΣΩΜΑΤΙ ΦΕΓΓΟΣ

The light of human excellence does not fade away with the body

(Bacchylides, Ode 3, ll. 90–91)

St Peter's Eastern Hill
Tuesday 15th July, 2pm

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.

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.**

Greeting

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

The grace and peace of God the Father, who raised Jesus from the
dead, be always with you.
and also with you.

The priest greets the congregation and continues with these words.

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

Ian McPhee – A Life
Ross McPhee and Gillian Shepherd

The priest says

‘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; Romans 8.38–39

The priest prays the opening Prayer:

Loving God,
in whose arms we are created and born,
and in whose arms we die,
we give thanks for your servant *Ian*:
receive him into your everlasting care,
and guide us all in the paths that lead to your presence,
now and always;
we make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

READINGS

Revelation 21.1-4

A reading from the Revelation to St John

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.”

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

A. E. Housman: *For my Funeral*

O thou that from thy mansion
Through time and place to roam,
Dost send abroad thy children,
And then dost call them home.

That men and tribes and nations
And all thy hand hath made
May shelter them from sunshine
In thine eternal shade:

We now to peace and darkness
And earth and thee restore
Thy creature that thou madest
And wilt cast forth no more.

THIRD READING

G.M. Hopkins, *Heaven-Haven*

I have desired to go
Where springs not fail,
To fields where flies no sharp and sided hail
And a few lilies blow.

And I have asked to be
Where no storms come,
Where the green swell is in the havens dumb,
And out of the swing of the sea.

Homily

The Rev'd Dr Michael Bowie, Vicar, St Peter's Eastern Hill

The prayers of Intercession

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 *Ian*, for the grace and mercy he received from you, for all that was good in his life, for the memories we treasure today.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

You promised eternal life to those who believe. Remember for good this your servant *Ian* 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.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death.

Look in mercy on Ross, *Ian's* family and friends, and all who mourn.

Give them patient faith in times of darkness.

Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

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.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

At the end of the prayers

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
**Grant that what we ask in faith, we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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.**

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest—to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but nought changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see,
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

THE FAREWELL

The priest says

Lord Jesus Christ,
you gave new birth to our brother *Ian* 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 *Ian* 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 *Ian* 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.**

THE COMMITTAL

Facing the coffin, the priest says

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 brother *Ian*
to be cremated
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

All say

**Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The coffin is sprinkled with holy water and honoured with incense.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God

