

Funeral Service of Thanksgiving
for the life of
Joan Simpson Snedden

19th August, 1938 – 26th August, 2026



St George's Anglican Church, Malvern
Thursday, 10th September, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Before the service begins, please ensure mobile phones are turned to silent or off.

Episcopal President: The Right Reverend Dr Alison Taylor AM

Officiant and Preacher: The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach,
Vicar

Assisting Clergy: The Reverend Canon Barry Smith OAM
Vicar Emeritus

The Reverend Fr Bill Michie,
Former Assistant Priest and Colleague of Joan's

Organist and Pianist: Mr John Mallinson

Vocalists: Fiona Walters
Judy Mallinson

*Extracts from the text of A Prayer Book for Australia
published under the imprint of Broughton Books
by E. J. Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd.*

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*Texts for hymns from
© Elizabeth J. Smith and from
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The Canterbury Press, Norwich, 1995*

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*The Paschal Candle, the great symbol of Christ's victory over death,
remains alight throughout the service.*

Gathering in God's Name

Please stand as the clergy enter.

The Vicar greets the congregation:

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please sit.

Before the service continues, Christian symbols (including Joan's grandmother's Bible) will be placed on the coffin. Prayers will be offered by Fr Bill.

Words of welcome follow.

We then stand to sing:

1. Here at journey's end we meet you:
 Lord, hear our prayer.
In the faith of Christ we greet you:
 Lord, hear our prayer.
With your gentle Spirit, tend us,
with the Saviour's love, befriend us,
strength and peace and comfort send us:
 Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For the blessings God gave to her,
 thanks be to God.
For the blessings God gave through her,
 thanks be to God.
for the memories we treasure,
times of struggle, times of pleasure,
grace bestowed in generous measure,
 thanks be to God.

3. Death must come, but life comes after:
all shall be well.
We will trust, through tears and laughter:
all shall be well.
Now in Christ our friend is sleeping,
though we still need time for weeping,
all are held in God's safe-keeping:
all shall be well.

Words: Elizabeth J. Smith (1956–)
Music: Ar Hyd Y Nos, Welsh trad. melody,
arr. English Hymnal
(1906)

Please sit.

The Vicar reads some sentences of Scripture. We then pray together:

**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.**

Tribute

A tribute to Joan will be offered by

Fiona Gatt
(Joan's younger daughter)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

from Proverbs 31

Read by Mara Gatt (one of Joan's grandchildren)

A capable woman who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing:

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness
E'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill:
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
4. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Words: Scottish Psalter (1650)

Music: Crimond, Melody by Jesse Irvine (1836–87)

Please sit.

SECOND READING

John 20:1–2, 11–18

Read by Heather Gilmour (a lifelong friend of Joan's)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”....

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Vicar offers a homily.

The Prayers

Prayers are offered, concluding with:

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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 Farewell and The Committal

A prayer is offered and then:

Let us now entrust our sister Joan into the loving mercy of God.

Silence is kept, before we all say:

**Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love, you gave us new life in Christ Jesus.
We entrust Joan 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,
one God, in glory forever. Amen.**

Another prayer is said, concluding with:

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

The coffin is then sprinkled with holy water as a reminder that, in the waters of baptism, Joan entered into Christ's death that she might share Christ's risen life.

It is then censed as a sign that our prayers, with Joan's and those of all the faithful, rise to God in glory.

While this occurs, the following is sung by Fiona Walters, Joan's daughter Rachel's partner:

Refrain: **Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home.**

1. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see?
 Coming for to carry me home
 I saw a band of angels coming after me
 Coming for to carry me home.

Repeat refrain

2. If you get there before I do
 Coming for to carry me home
 Tell all of my friends I'm coming too
 Coming for to carry me home.

Repeat refrain

A final committal is pronounced before all stand for

The Blessing

The Bishop pronounces a blessing, to which all respond:

Amen.

All remain standing as the coffin is led from the Church.

Recessional

The Skye Boat Song

*Sung by Judy Mallinson
Accompanied by John Mallinson*

Please follow Rachel, Fiona and the family outside to the hearse.

All of Joan's family are most grateful for your presence today, and for your support and friendship over many years.

You are warmly invited to join them for refreshments and further memories in the Parish Hall.

At a designated time, you are invited to gather in the church forecourt as the hearse is escorted and departs up Glenferrie Road.



Joan Simpson Snedden

Joan was born in Hampton on 19 August 1938, the only child of Reginald Simpson and Winifred (née Booth). The family lived above and behind her father's tailoring business on Hampton's main street. During the Second World War, while her father served in the Middle East, Joan and her mother lived for a time with her maternal family in Mortlake. She attended Casterton College, Mortlake Primary, Hampton Primary and Hampton High, forming enduring friendships with schoolmates and Mortlake cousins.

After leaving school in Form 4, Joan worked for four years as a bank teller in Hampton. Active in Hampton Presbyterian Church, she became inspired by the work of Deaconesses. As a young adult she completed the School Leaving Certificate and matriculated before undertaking three years of residential Deaconess training at Roland House, where she formed further lifelong friendships. She served initially in Hamilton, then for seven years in the Richmond–Burnley parish.

Joan pursued extensive theological and academic studies, including a Licentiate in Theology, Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees and a PhD, *Life After Death: The New Testament Teaching and Spiritualist Claims from the Viewpoint of Jungian Psychology*. Her studies included biblical literature, antiquities, psychology, Syriac and early Eastern Church documents, and Jungian analysis.

She taught biblical literature and comparative religion at the University of Melbourne, later tutoring in psychology at various institutions and teaching courses on Jung through the Council of Adult Education for twelve years.

In 1987 Joan became a Presbyterian chaplain at the Royal Children's Hospital, later adding the Royal Melbourne and Royal Women's hospitals to her schedule. She worked full-time at St Andrew's Hospital from 1988 until its closure in 1990, and subsequently at Freemason's and Cabrini hospitals. Joan was ordained in the Anglican Church in 2002. She was a valued member of St George's community.

Joan married Richard Snedden (1934–2021) in 1972. Their daughters, Rachel and Fiona, were born in 1974 and 1975.

