

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of

# RONALD KEITH MCKENZIE

13 August 1949 - 3 January 2026



Anglican Church of the Ascension,  
Burwood East

Friday 23 January 2026, 11.00am

Priest Fr Anthony Frost

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## Entrance Hymn

“For all the saints, who from their labours rest”

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,  
who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;  
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light. Alleluia,  
Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;  
sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed. Alleluia, Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
the King of glory passes on His way. Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia, Alleluia!

*TiS 455 William Walsham How 1823-97 alt.*

## Acclamation

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.  
And also with you.

## Welcome

We have come together to thank God for the life of Ron, to mourn and honour him, to lay to rest his mortal body, and to support one another in our 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.

## Placing of Christian Symbols

**Candle**

placed by Oscar McKenzie

Light immortal,  
you brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.  
May we, with Ron, know the full light of your risen presence. **Amen.**

**Water**

placed by Ava McKenzie

In the waters of baptism we died with Christ, and began to walk in newness of life. May we, with Ron and all the baptised, be brought to the fulfilment of your eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

**Scriptures**

placed by Stephanie Allan

In life Ron was nourished by the word of God.  
May Christ greet us, with Ron, saying:  
Come, blessed of my Father! **Amen.**

**Cross**

placed by Luke Allan

Lord Jesus Christ, you bore our sins on the cross. May this cross be a sign to us of your love for Ron, and the forgiveness of his sins. **Amen.**

**Life Symbol**

placed by Philip McKenzie

Lord Jesus, you call us to abundant life. May these symbols remind us of the rich gift of Ron's life. **Amen.**

‘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*

I am convinced that neither death, nor life  
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all  
creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8.38-39*

*Let us pray:*

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

## Eulogies

by John McKenzie, Heath McKenzie,  
Christine Youings, Fr Anthony Frost

## The Ministry of The Word

### Reading

1 Corinthians 15:50b-58

Read by Luke Allan

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does  
the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a  
mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a  
moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the  
trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable,  
and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on  
imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.  
When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this  
mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written  
will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

**“The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want.”**

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.

My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
ev’n for his own name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill:  
for thou art with me; and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me:  
and in God’s house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

*TiS 10 Scottish Psalter 1650*

## The Gospel

John 14:1-14

Read by David 'Tex' McKenzie

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to John, chapter 14, beginning at verse 1.  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.'

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

## Homily

Fr Anthony Frost

## Photo Memories

## Prayers

Led by Fr Anthony Frost

## Preparation

Jesus said I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and who ever believes in me will never be thirsty.

*John 6.35*

## Prayer of Approach

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs  
under your table. But you are the same Lord,  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.

## Invitation to Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners  
and inviting them to the Lord's table.  
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere  
and a true heart.

## Confession

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 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.

## Offertory Hymn

**“I cannot tell, why he whom angels worship”**

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship  
should set His love upon the sons of men,  
or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers  
to bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know that He was born of Mary  
when Bethlehem's manger was His only home  
and that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,  
as with His peace he graced this place of tears  
or how His heart upon the Cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted.  
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,  
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden,  
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,  
how he will claim His earthly heritage,  
how satisfy the needs and aspirations  
of East and West, of sinner and of sage.  
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,  
and he shall reap the harvest He has sown,  
and some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour  
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.



I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship  
when, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation  
when all the hearts of men with love are filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture  
and myriad, myriad human voices sing  
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer  
at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!

*William Young Fullerton, 1857-1932.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
giver of life, and conqueror of death.

By his death on the cross, your Son Jesus Christ  
offered the one true sacrifice for sin, breaking the power  
of evil and putting death to flight. With all your saints  
we give you thanks and praise.

Through his resurrection from the dead  
you have given us new birth into a living hope,  
into an inheritance which is imperishable,  
undefiled, and unfading. With all your saints  
we give you thanks and praise.

The joy of resurrection fills the universe,  
and so we join with angels and archangels,  
with Ron and all your faithful people,  
evermore praising you and saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy  
Spirit, we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks he broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore with thanksgiving for the gift of your Son we here  
proclaim his passion and death, and his victory over the grave.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son  
and bring us with Ron and all your faithful people into the joy of  
your eternal kingdom; with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, we offer our prayer and praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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 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.

The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of  
Christ in remembrance that he died for us,  
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## Post Communion Hymn

“Abide with me; fast falls the eventide”

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:  
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away,  
change and decay in all around I see:  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:  
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*TiS 586 Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847 alt.*

## 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 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.**

## The Farewell

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

Let us entrust our brother Ron to the mercy of God.  
*Silence may be kept.*

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 Ron to your merciful keeping:  
in the faith of Jesus Christ, he 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

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 Ron 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.

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

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

## The Blessing and Dismissal

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy for us you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

Be our refuge and strength in sorrow.

As your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us conquered death, and by rising again restored us to life, so may we go forward in faith to meet him, and after our life on earth be united with our dear brothers and sisters in Christ where every tear will be wiped away, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

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 peace in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

## Hymn

*As the procession leaves the church, we sing:*

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the living waters flow:  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

*TiS 569 William Williams 1717-91*

*tr. Peter Williams 1722-96 and William Williams alt.*

Donations in memory of Ronald can be made to  
Cancer Council of Victoria



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land,  
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.  
We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*

Vicar: Fr Anthony Frost

Phone: 0409 012 543

PARISH WEB ADDRESS: [www.ascensionchurch.org.au](http://www.ascensionchurch.org.au)



Heather, Rachael, Heath, and the family  
would like to thank you all  
for your attendance and support today.

Light refreshments will be served in the hall  
at the conclusion of the service.



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