

Commemoration Service
for
His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip,
The Duke of Edinburgh

Sunday 11th April 2021

at 5.00pm

“Online”

**The Parish of Fladbury, Hill & Moor, Wyre Piddle,
Crothorne and Charlton**

and

**The Parish of St James' Bishampton
with Throckmorton**

Organ Piece: Elegy by Thalben-Ball

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11:25, 26.

Christ has risen from the dead, by death he has trampled on death and to those in the graves he has given life.

Orthodox Easter Hymn.

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father, grace, mercy and peace be with you.

We meet this day to remember before God His Royal Highness PHILIP, Duke of Edinburgh, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our prayers and praises to the Father.

○ God, make speed to save us.

○ **Lord, make haste to help us.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls: you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness, who walk in the shadow of death, so remember in your kingdom your faithful servant PHILIP, Duke of Edinburgh, that death may be for him the gate to life and to unending

fellowship with you; where with your saints you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Lesson: Revelation 7:9–end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Hymn: Abide with me

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 ev'ry passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
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 now thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Reflection

“Devotion”, “duty” and “service” are tributes to Prince Philip from across the world and from every generation; and in them, we recognise the unique way in which they were fulfilled by the Duke. He carried them out true to who he was. Prince Philip stepped into a role few of us would choose. It was at a particular time in history when the world was changing faster than at any time before, and when the media’s influence has been powerful. Most of us can only begin to imagine the intensity of voices and influences upon the Queen and the Royal family, and on His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, as the Queen’s “strength and stay” as husband, friend and consort. He developed his role – his calling, with the integrity of who he was. The Duke adapted as society changed. He helped the monarchy to live in the present age, respected and loved, and still holding the responsibility of tradition and uniqueness of purpose.

We saw his enquiring mind engage with engineering; his love of nature lead him to speak prophetically about conservation, and from his belief in the common good that grows out of the efforts of individuals to learn new skills and release potential within themselves, The Duke of Edinburgh Award’s Scheme.

In this, in his contribution to the young, he has enabled others to fulfil their lives, true to their unique personalities and gifts, and by inspiring it to be for the common good, subsequently, to build up communities, rich in diversity, dedicated to serving others, and protecting the world for future generations. A world that shall reflect the glory of God.

As a man of faith, the Duke will have known, as do we, that the glory of God seen on earth is but a small manifestation of God's glory in heaven. The vision of this is the inspiration for Christian service – for all things to reflect God's glory, and for all things to flourish in God's life.

The vision is also our hope that God draws all His servants to His heavenly throne and shall give them His eternal life. Then, we shall understand the fulness of God's love and His life for us.

Keep a time of quiet before praying.

Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
And there shall no torment touch them.

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the Lord
In the land of the living.

Prayers

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of His Royal Highness PHILIP, Duke of Edinburgh, for the love he received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with your servant Philip that clearer vision, promised to us in the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Father of all mercies and God of all consolation, you pursue us with untiring love and dispel the shadow of death with the bright dawn of life. Give courage to The Queen and the Royal Family in their loss and sorrow. Be their refuge and strength, O Lord; reassure them of your continuing love and lift them from the

depths of grief into the peace and light of your presence. Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. Your Holy Spirit, our comforter, speaks for us in groans too deep for words. Come alongside your people, remind them of your eternal presence and give them your comfort and strength. **Amen.**

○ Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us to know that it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through him who, for the finishing of thy work, laid down his life for us, even our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Based on the prayer of Sir Francis Drake (c. 1540–1596)

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you, and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

St Benedict (c. 480–543)

Commendation

Lord our God, lover of souls, you give light to those who walk in the shadow of death. Remember your faithful servant, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Receive him into your loving arms, that for him, death may be the gate to life in your eternal presence; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

May God in his mercy grant us, with all the faithful departed, rest and peace. **Amen.**

Hymn: Guide me O thou Great Redeemer

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou are mighty;
hold me with thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
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.

William Williams (1717-1791)
trans. Peter Williams (1727-1796) and others

The Blessing

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Stand

The National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.