

Memorial Service



**An Invitation to
Remember, Give Thanks,
and Find Comfort in God's Love**

Welcome to St Edward's!

We hope that today's service might bring you comfort, peace and encouragement as we gather to remember before God our loved ones who have died.

May the candles we light during our service today make visible to us God's undying love that reaches beyond death. God knows our grief and draws alongside us in our pain, shining light into our darkness. As the Psalmist encourages us,

'Even darkness is no darkness with God;
the night is as clear as the day'. (Psalm 139.11)

We pray that you might be able to carry some of the light of today's service with you into the coming days. Please feel free to take one of the small votive candles with you after the service as a reminder of God's light in our lives.

We will be offering (simple) refreshments in the Choir House after the service: please do join us if you are able to stay. We would be delighted to meet you!

Music is played before the service.

Please stand as the choir and ministers enter.

Welcome

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

All Amen.

We meet in the presence of God

**All who knows our needs,
 hears our cries,
 feels our pain,
 and heals our wounds.**

The minister offers words of welcome and introduction.

Opening Hymn

Please sit.

Coming into God's Light

Almighty God,
in your great love
you crafted us by your hand;
you breathed life into us by your Spirit,
and fashioned us in your image.

Today, we remember before you
those whom we continue to love and cherish
beyond the painful reality of death:
those special people who have made known to us
by the example of their lives
your undying love for all your people.
As we gather in this place to honour their memory,
comfort us with your presence,
meet us in our sadness,
and open our hearts
to the promise of your resurrection.

May this candle be for us
a visible sign of your triumph over darkness,
that we would lay aside our fear of death
and trust in you, the author and giver of all life.

The Paschal Candle is lit, and silence is kept.

God our creator,
you raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
have mercy on us.

All Have mercy, Lord, we pray.

God our redeemer,
you bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
have mercy on us.

All Have mercy, Lord, we pray.

God our sustainer,
you make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
have mercy on us.

All Have mercy, Lord, we pray.

Creator God,
in weakness and in strength,
we bear your image.
In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
may we know ourselves to be your children,
enfolded in your tender love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please remain seated.

Psalmody

All The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**All My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.

**All Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

**All so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
neither the moon by night.**

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep your soul.

**All The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.**

All The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Please stand.

Hymn

Please sit.

Bible Reading

Address

Choir Anthem

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you have made us in your image,
that we might reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for those who have died
and for the memories we treasure.

Grant them a share in the fulness of your kingdom
and life with you forever.

Hear us, risen Lord,

All our resurrection and our life.

God of compassion, Lord of love,
your presence brings joy out of grief
and life out of death.

Look in mercy on us, and all who mourn.

Give us patient faith in times of darkness,
and steadfast courage as we journey on.

Hear us, risen Lord,

All our resurrection and our life.

God of healing, Lord of peace,
you are tender towards your children
and your mercy is over all your works.
Heal our memories of hurt and failure.
Give us 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.

Hear us, risen Lord,

All our resurrection and our life.

Hear us now, O merciful Father,
as we bring to you those we love,
by name and by the lighting of a candle.

*Please remain seated as the names of those who have died
are read out.*

In the rising of the sun
and in its going down,
we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind
and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky
and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves
and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.

In the beginning of the year
and when it ends,
we remember them.

When we are lost
and sick at heart,
we remember them.

When we have joys
we yearn to share,
we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are part of us,
and we remember them.

*You are invited to come forward and light a candle in memory
of your loved one(s); follow the guidance of our stewards.*

*Please don't hesitate to ask for their assistance
if you need any support.*

*During the lighting of the candles, the choir sing a Taizé chant;
please feel free to join in:*

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust, in God I trust.

Please stand.

Collect

Silence is kept.

Lord God, creator of all,
you have made us creatures of this earth
and have promised us, beyond the threshold of death,
a share in life eternal.

According to your promises,
may all who have died in the peace of Christ
come with your saints to the joys of your kingdom,
where there will be neither sorrow nor pain,
but the radiant joy and fulness of life everlasting.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

All 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.

Closing Responses and Blessing

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

All a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening:

All the day is almost over.

Even the darkness is not dark for you:

All the night shines like the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness:

All fill us with your glory.

May God keep you all your days.
May Christ shield you in all your ways.
May the Spirit bring you peace.

May God the Holy Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
drive all darkness from you,
and pour upon you blessing and light.

All Amen.

Please remain standing as the choir and ministers depart.

Recessional Hymn

New Patterns for Worship (2nd edition),
Common Worship: Pastoral Services,
and Common Worship: Times and Seasons,
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*There is no collection during today's service,
but we would be very grateful for any donation
you might be able to make
towards the upkeep of this beautiful church
and our ministry in the local community.*

*Donations can be made in cash,
via the card reader at the back of church, or online:
<https://givealittle.co/c/stedwards>*



*Thank you for your generosity.
We hope to welcome you to this special place again soon!*

Please join us for refreshments after the service



all are very welcome!



ST EDWARD'S
CHEDDLETON