



# SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

21 JULY 2020 @ 7PM

## WELCOME – CLAIRE

The Lord be with you all as we gather on Wurrundjeri land.

Good evening everyone.

I invite you to set out your prayer mats, gather a pen and paper, and light a candle or switch on a lamp to remind us that, no matter how dark it feels, God is the light that can never be put out. No darkness will ever overcome the light of God.

From Matthew's gospel, chapter 11:28-30

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Come, all who are weary.

Come this evening to a time of remembrance.

Come, all who are here because they have lost someone they love during this time of COVID19.

Come, all who are here because they are reminded of past grief and bereavements.

Come, all who are here simply because they care.

We are here in the name of our God of love and grace, who sits with us in our sorrows, and who sends the rainbows for when we are ready to see them.

The verse we have been sharing since COVID began 4 months ago is from Isaiah 41:10 and we used it, if you remember, for a Good Friday reflection:

'do not fear, for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.'

God will strengthen us, that's the promise, but sometimes it doesn't feel like that. If anyone needs to speak to me or Megan following this evening's service, or at any time, please phone us. No-one needs to feel alone at this time.

This evening, we will hear prayers, readings and poetry. Thank you to Adele, Phil and Mary for helping us with the readings. There will be the chance to jot down some responses if you wish to, there will be the chance to name particular people if you wish to. One person may be named several times. It doesn't matter. There will be silent space for your own thoughts.

Let's listen now to Megan as she leads us in prayer.

## PRAYER – MEGAN

We are ordinary human beings, and, at each point in our lives, we have done what we can do for our loved one we are remembering today.

We will rest with that and honour the significance of our human journeys. If who we are and what we have done or not done has impacted on the lives of others, we ask their forgiveness, wherever they are at this moment.

We will walk into the future accepting our ordinary selves and giving our energy to the future rather than to the past.

We will honour the past by carrying with us, very close to our hearts our real and ongoing love for the things we have lost through the death of the one who has died.

(Dorothy McCrae-McMahon)

## ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8 (ADELE)

“ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

SILENCE

## ROMANS 8:38-39 (PHIL)

“<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup>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.

SILENCE

## PSALM 23 (MARY)

“<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
  
<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

SILENCE

## JOHN 14:1-3 (PHIL)

“ ‘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.

SILENCE

## PRAYER - PHIL

Gracious God,  
You made us and you love us.  
Your love is our security and our hope.  
We find our true selves, complete and whole,  
only within your love.  
And because in love you have prepared for us  
a destiny more wonderful that we can imagine,  
we trust you with our loved ones and ourselves;  
in Jesus' name.  
Amen

## MEGAN TO LEAD THE WRITTEN RESPONSES

Invite everyone to write down a word or short phrase that encapsulates the person they are honouring. It's not for sharing, just for yourself.  
Whilst this is happening, we will play the choir singing Psalm 23.

## PSALM 23 – SUNG BY THE CHOIR

### PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS – CLAIRE

God remembers you:  
Your names and your stories  
In the darkness before morning,  
you will not be alone.  
In the questions without answers,  
you will not be unheard.  
God is on your road.  
God walks with you every step, every smile, every  
tear.  
Today and every day,  
God loves you and remembers you.  
Amen  
*(untraced author – perhaps Iona)*

### MEGAN TO LEAD RESPONSES

Please share your spoken responses if you would like to. These could be the words or phrases you wrote down earlier or a sense of how you are feeling. When all who want to share have shared, we'll finish with the prayer:

To love someone is to risk the pain of parting.  
But not to love is never to have lived.  
The grief we now experience is the honouring of our  
love.  
So let us go into the world glad that we have loved,  
free to weep for those we have lost,  
free to hold each other in our human frailty.  
Let us go in peace.  
Amen

### CLOSE – CLAIRE

This is a poem I often give to families when their loved one is nearing the end. Sometimes a person needs to be told it's ok to leave, it's ok to die, that we are going to grieve but that it's going to be ok. This is beautiful poem by Ruth Burgess of the Iona Community called It's time to go.

It's time to go.  
It's ok to go.  
We're here.

We love you.

It's been a fight for you.  
We've watched you struggle,  
watched your body dying,  
seen you in sadness and pain.

It's hard.  
This saying goodbye.  
You love us.  
We love you.  
You don't want to go.

And we don't want you to go  
but we know that you need to.  
Your time here is over,  
your job is done.

There's a time for fighting.  
You've always been a fighter.  
You're not going to change now.  
We know that.  
We know you.

But we need to tell you  
that we're here  
beside you,  
and we're ok,  
we'll miss you but we'll manage,  
and we'll be here,  
loving you  
when you let go.

Please don't feel you need to rush off unless you would prefer to leave zoom. Megan and I will remain here for a while just as we would in a church setting. We can't share a cuppa together but feel free to go and put the kettle on and come back with one if you wish.