

A Commemorative Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



**Truro
Cathedral**

**Sunday 18th September
at 4.00 pm**

About this service

Of the huge number of comments and reflections that have been made about Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth since her death on September 8th, much has been made about her strong faith. The faith of prominent people, especially in politics, is nearly always diffidently expressed. Alistair Campbell once famously said that 'we don't do God,' but no-one was bashful in speaking about The Queen's religious beliefs. She certainly did God, and everyone knew it, and, more to the point, respected it.

Her faith was based on a profound principle that she was dependent upon God for everything, and this was firmly held throughout her life of service. Many people have been in awe that one person, over eighty years of public life, could have so unflinchingly devoted herself to a life of service, and yet she was able to do this because she unerringly placed everything before God himself. She was always his humble and obedient servant. And it is because she espoused these qualities, humility, service and obedience to the teachings of Jesus, that she leaves us a wonderful example to follow.

This service attempts to illuminate something of the character of Her Majesty's faith and the example she leaves by leading us from that sense of being totally dependent on God, seeking his mercy and help, to the requirement and desire to give thanks for her life. The earlier music and readings of this service refer to our need for God, that when we are facing difficult times, we can refer back again and again to him who absorbs our pains, and offers nothing but unconditional love in return. 'What shall we cry?' says the prophet: the grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord stands for ever.

This dependence, this resoluteness is affirmed in Vaughan Williams' powerful anthem, *Lord, thou hast been our refuge*, a setting of words from Psalm 90, and we find ourselves affirming our gratefulness, not only to our loving God, but also to this humble, obedient woman, who responded to her call to serve with unhesitating conviction. And in the light of this we can echo the final words of the anthem: the glorious Majesty of the Lord be upon us. O prosper thou our handywork.

Her Majesty was glorious because she reflected the glory of God, being there for her people, among them in their joys and sorrows, serving them humbly and devotedly because of her calling.

May she rest in peace, and rise in glory!

Please stand for the entry of Vice Lord Lieutenant's Procession and remain standing for the entry of the Choir and clergy. Standards will be processed during the opening hymn.

Anthem

O taste and see.

Words, Psalm 34. 8; music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The anthem was composed for the Queen's Coronation

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blest is the man that trusteth in him.

Blest is the man that trusteth in him.

Hymn

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

The Dean welcomes the congregation and says the opening prayer.

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 our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, 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.

O God, make speed to save us.

All **O 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, Elizabeth, that death may be for her 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.

All **Amen.**

Please sit as the choir chants the Psalm but stand for the singing of the Gloria.

Psalm 39, 1-8
sung by the Choir

I said, I will take heed to my ways: that I offend not in my tongue.
I will keep my mouth as it were with a bridle: while the ungodly is in
my sight.

I held my tongue, and spake nothing: I kept silence, yea, even from
good words; but it was pain and grief to me.

My heart was hot within me, and while I was thus musing the fire
kindled: and at the last I spake with my tongue;

Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days: that I may
be certified how long I have to live.

Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long: and mine
age is even as nothing in respect of thee; and verily every man living
is altogether vanity.

For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain:
he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.

And now, Lord, what is my hope: truly my hope is even in thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Please sit.

Reading

Isaiah 40. 1-8

read by Cllr Pauline Giles BEM, Chairman of Cornwall Council

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Hear my prayer, O Lord.

Words: Psalm 102. 1; music: Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and let my crying unto thee.

Please stand.

Hymn

**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,
e'en 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 furnished
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 forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

This hymn was sung at The Queen's wedding to Prince Philip

Please sit.

Reading

Romans 8. 28-39

read by James Williams, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,
'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Lord, thou hast been our refuge

Words: from Psalm 90; music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever the earth and the world were made,
Thou art God from everlasting and world without end.
Thou turnest man to destruction; again Thou sayest:
Come again, ye children of men.
For a thousand years in Thy sight are
but as yesterday; seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

*O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come.
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.*

As soon as thou scatterest them, they are even as asleep,
and fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and groweth up,
but in the evening it is cut down and withered.
For we consume away in thy displeasure,
and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.
For when thou art angry, all our days are gone,
we bring our years to an end, as a tale that is told.
The days of our age are threescore years and ten:
and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years,
yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow.
So passeth it away, and we are gone.
Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last.
Be gracious unto thy servants.
O satisfy us with thy mercy, and that soon.
So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever the earth and the world were made,
Thou art God from everlasting and world without end.

And the glorious Majesty of the Lord be upon us.
Prosper Thou, O prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us.
O prosper Thou our handywork.

Sermon
The Dean

Prayers
given by Andrew Williams, the High Sheriff of Cornwall

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 our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, for the love she 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 Elizabeth that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with your servant Queen Elizabeth and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection: that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; 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.

All **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, the members of the Royal Family, this Nation and all the Nations of the Commonwealth, that casting all our care on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please stand.

Hymn

During the hymn the standards are returned and a collection is taken

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom Heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.**

Final Prayer and Blessing
given by the Bishop of Truro

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord King Charles and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and all humankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you, always.

All **Amen.**

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

**Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.**

Organ voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in E minor BWV 548 by Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Refreshments will be served in the North Transept to which all are warmly invited.

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