



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

FOR THE LIFE OF

CHRYSTAL HEATHER ASHTON

11 July 1929 - 15 September 2019

St George's Church, Jesmond

Thursday 31 October 2019

BEFORE THE SERVICE

Chorale Prelude 'Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele' BWV 564 J S Bach

Adagio for Strings Op. 11 Samuel Barber (arr. William Strickland)

Prière for Cello and Organ Op. 158 Camille Saint-Saëns

INTROIT

Sinfonia from Cantata 106 'Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit' J S Bach

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11.25,26

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

We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6.7; Job 1.21b

INTRODUCTION AND PRAYER

The Reverend Canon Brian Hurst
Vicar of St George's and St Hilda's, Jesmond

We have come here today
to remember before God our sister Heather Ashton;
to give thanks for her life;
to commend her to God our merciful redeemer and judge;
to commit her body to be cremated,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything you have made.
In your mercy
turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life,
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All Amen

HYMN

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
And gavest light and life and peace:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Your children shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go:
And ever let there rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Words: William Whiting 1825-78
Music: John Bacchus Dykes 1823-1876 "*Melita*"

THE TRIBUTES

Andrew Ashton (Heather's son)

Jim Ashton (Heather's son)

Ai Chaobang John Ashton (Heather's grandson)

Baylissa Frederick (Heather's friend)

MOTET

Die Gerechten Seelen sind in Gottes Hand, Heinrich Schütz,
from *Musikalische Exequien Op. 7*

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and there shall no torment touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die:
and their departure is taken for misery,
And their going from us to be utter destruction:
but they are in peace.

Sung by Caroline Ostler, Miranda Ostler and Tom Ashton
(Heather's daughter, granddaughter and grandson; sopranos
and bass), with Deborah Thorne (baroque cello) and John
Green (organ)

THE EULOGY

John Ashton (Heather's son)

THE COLLECT

The Rev Canon Brian Hurst

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Heather, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

***All* Amen**

THE LESSON

David Champion, Heather's nephew

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹²For now we see through a glass darkly; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13.1-10; 12-13 (NIV/KJV)

THE ADDRESS

The Rev Canon Brian Hurst

HYMN

We would be one as now we join in singing,
Our hymn of love, to pledge ourselves anew.
To that high cause of greater understanding
Of who we are, and what in us is true.
We would be one in living for each other,
To show to all a new community.

We would be one in building for tomorrow
A nobler world than we have known today.
We would be one in searching for that meaning
Which binds our hearts and points us on our way.
As one, we pledge ourselves to greater service,
With love and justice, strive to make us free.

Words: Samuel Anthony Wright 1919-2016
Music: Jean Sibelius 1865-1957 "Finlandia"

PRAYERS

The Rev Canon Brian Hurst

Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them,
and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for your servant Heather
and for all that you did through her.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

All Amen

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround the family and friends of Heather with your love,
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,
but have confidence in your goodness
and strength to meet the days to come.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All Amen

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house
and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that
house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but
one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no
fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor
beginnings, but one equal eternity: in the habitations of thy
majesty and glory, world without end.

All Amen

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them
that 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**

All Amen

HYMN

Hills of the North, rejoice,
River and mountain spring,
Hark to the advent voice;
Valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, His promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet Him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall His path adorn:
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;
To you He comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light;
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home,
Songs be in every mouth,
Lo, from the North they come,
From East and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In Him the universe be blest.

Words: based on Charles Edward Oakley 1832-65

Music: Martin Shaw 1875-1958 "Little Cornard"

THE COMMENDATION

The Rev Canon Brian Hurst

Heather, go forth from this world:
in the love of God the Father who created you,
in the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeemed you,
in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.
May the heavenly host sustain you
and the company of heaven enfold you.
In communion with all the faithful,
may you dwell this day in peace.

All Amen.

PROCESSION

The First Frost, Duo on Leicestershire Smallpipes

Played by John Duncan and Julian Goodacre (Heather's cousins),
leading the procession out of the Church

AFTER THE SERVICE

Prelude on the Welsh Hymn Tune 'Rhosymedre' Ralph Vaughan Williams

Please see the invitation overleaf

John, Caroline, Jim and Andrew would be pleased if all members of the congregation who so wish could join them from 3pm onwards at Heather's house, 1B Rectory Road, South Gosforth, NE3 1XR. This is around 15 minutes' walk from St George's Church, and 3 minutes from South Gosforth Metro station. Parking is available.

Immediately after this Service of Thanksgiving, there will be a brief Service of Committal for Heather's immediate family at West Road Crematorium. John, Caroline, Jim and Andrew will reach Rectory Road around 3.30pm. Friends will already be at Heather's house and will extend a warm welcome to all who arrive earlier. At 5pm there will be a gentle moment of remembrance, with a nod to Heather's daily routine.

During her final years, Heather and her family and carers received invaluable support, given with extraordinary compassion, selflessness and skill, from Joe Costello, her Admiral Nurse. Without this she would have had to endure far more than she did.

Many others who find themselves in a similar position towards the end of their lives are not so fortunate. It was Heather's wish that at this Service there be a **collection for Dementia UK**, the registered charity that provides specialist dementia nursing and support through the Admiral Nurses for those in need of it throughout our country. Collection boxes and envelopes are set out at the back of the Church for this purpose, and will also be provided at Heather's house for those joining her family there afterwards.

Donations can also be made online, at:
www.dementiauk.org/get-involved/donate/

J. B. Dykes (1823-76)



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Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)



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Martin Shaw (1875-1958)



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John, Caroline, Jim and Andrew would like to thank everyone who helped with this service, especially Brian Hurst, as well as John Green (organ), Deborah Thorne (baroque cello) and Vera Rodgers (flowers).

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