

# **St Peter's Church, Formby**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024**



## **A Service of Remembrance and Hope**

Death leaves a heartache difficult to heal;  
Love leaves sweet memories no one can steal.

*On a Tombstone in Ireland 1889.*

## Choir Introit – Rutter - Gaelic Blessing

### Welcome

### Lighting of a Candle

Lighting a candle is a prayer: kindling in our hearts and minds the prayers we offer.  
Lighting a candle is a parable: burning itself it gives light to others.  
Lighting a candle is a symbol: of love and hope, of light and warmth.  
We and our world needs them all.

Give us deeper faith and trust in time of grief

**Their memory is a blessing for ever.**

Give us strength to bear the sadness of our loss

**Their memory is a blessing for ever.**

Grant peace to all who mourn today

**Their memory is a blessing for ever.**

### Prayer

### Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above.  
pray and praise thee without ceasing  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.



**Poem – Afterglow** about happy memories living on after a loved one has gone

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;  
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

*by Helen Lowrie Marshall*

**Reading:** John 14: 1-6, 27

'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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'

### **Sermon**

**Hymn** Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.  
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

### **Prayer of Remembrance**

Lord of all we praise you for all who have entered into their rest and reached the promised land where you are seen face to face. Give us grace to follow in their footsteps and to let their love continue to be reflected in our lives. Thank you for those whom we have known and loved who are now in your nearer presence. By each memory turn our hearts from things seen to things unseen, and lead us until we too come to the eternal rest which you have prepared for all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The names of loved ones are read out.**

**The choir will sing and you are invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of a loved one.**

**Silence**

**Intercessions**

The response to "Life-giving Lord" is **hear us and help us, we pray.**

**Hymn**

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quail at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ, the Saviour is born!  
Christ, the Saviour is born!

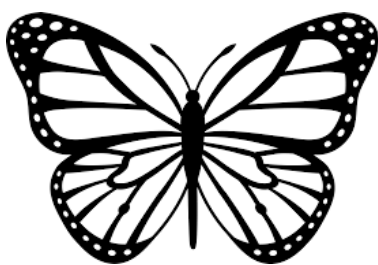
Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, Love's pure Light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



**Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

**Choir – Chilcott - An Irish Blessing**

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There is no night without a dawning  
No winter without a spring  
And beyond the dark horizon  
Our hearts will once more sing  
For those who leave us for a while  
Have only gone away  
Out of a restless, care worn world  
Into a brighter day.

*Helen Steiner Rice*