

The Civic and County Church of St Paul, Bedford



A Service of Thanksgiving

for

HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

16th April 2021

5pm

Welcome to St Paul's on this very special occasion.

During this Covid-19 pandemic strict hygiene precautions
are in place in the church.

We ask everyone, please, to wear face coverings, to maintain
social distancing, to sanitise hands on entering and leaving the church,
and to leave promptly after the service.

Thank you.

Organ Music before the Service:

Psalm Prelude Set 1; no 3

Psalm 23.4 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death'

Herbert Howells

All stand as the Church and Civic Processions enter the church

Order of Procession

THE CHURCH PROCESSION

Verger

The Archdeacon of Bedford

The Bishop of Bedford

THE CIVIC PROCESSION

The Vicar of St Paul's

The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire

The Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire

Please remain standing

SENTENCES

The Reverend Canon Kevin Goss, Vicar of St Paul's

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11.25,26

The Paschal (Easter) Candle, symbol of the Risen Presence of Jesus Christ, is lit

Christ has risen from the dead,
By death he has trampled on death
And to those in the graves he has given life.

Orthodox Easter Hymn

Three candles are lit. Representatives of: Judaism, Islam and Sikhism read an ascription and a sentence from their own scriptures.

A member of the Islamic faith:

This candle is lit in thanksgiving for the life and example of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

A member of the Jewish faith:

This candle is lit as a prayer for Her Majesty the Queen, the Royal Family and all who mourn.

A member of the Sikh faith:

This candle is lit as an expression of love and fidelity from our County of Bedfordshire, its communities and people.

HYMN

All remain standing

Choir

Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.

Words: William Williams

Tune: Cwm Rhondda

All remain standing

GREETING and BIDDING PRAYER

The Vicar says

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 warmly welcome you to this Civic and County Church of St Paul in Bedford as we meet this day to remember before God His Royal Highness PHILIP, Duke of Edinburgh, 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, PHILIP, Duke of Edinburgh, that death may be for him 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.**

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All sit

INTRODUCTION

Helen Nellis, Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire

PSALM

Choir

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord
who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper
the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day
neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in
from this time forth for evermore.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Psalm 121

Chant: Walford Davies

LESSON

Read by Eric Masih, High Sheriff of Bedfordshire

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Revelation 21.1-7

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ADDRESS

The Right Reverend Richard Atkinson OBE, Bishop of Bedford

ANTHEM

Bogoroditse Devo, raduisya,
Blagodatnaya Mariye, Gospod s Toboyu.
Blagoslovenna Ty v zhenakh,
i blagosloven plod chreva Tvoyego,
yako Spasa rodila esi dush nashikh.

*Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.
Blessed art Thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb,
for Thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.*

Words: Traditional Christian Prayer

Music: Sergei Rachmaninov
from the All-night Vigil (Vespers)
Luke 1.28,42

PRAYERS

The Vicar says

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,

All **And there shall no torment touch them.**

You, Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

All **My eyes from tears and my feet from falling.**

I will walk before the Lord

All **In the land of the living.**

A prayer of thanksgiving and hope

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 His Royal Highness PHILIP, Duke of Edinburgh, for the love he 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 Philip that clearer vision, promised to us in the same Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

A prayer for His Late Royal Highness

O eternal Lord God, who alone spreads out the heavens, and rules the raging of the sea; who has compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end: be pleased, most merciful Father, to receive into your almighty and most gracious protection the soul of our brother PHILIP; and grant that, with him and all the faithful departed, we may at the last enter into the haven of your unending joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

A prayer for all who mourn

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, Her Majesty the Queen and 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.**

A prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity

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 glory and dominion, world without end.

All **Amen.**

COMMENDATION

Choir

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of man: and we are mortal, formed from the dust of earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, 'Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.' All we go down to the dust; and weeping o'er the grave we make our song: Alleluya, alleluya, alleluya.

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Orthodox Kontakion for the Departed (traditional)

All stand

The Vicar says

Into your hands, O Father and Lord, we commend your servant, PHILIP, Duke of Edinburgh. Enlighten him with your holy grace and suffer him never to be separated from you, O Lord in Trinity, God everlasting.

May God in his mercy grant us, with all the faithful departed, rest and peace.

All

Amen

HYMN

Choir

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Words: Psalter Hymnal (Gray), 1987

Tune: Nun danket

All remain standing

BLESSING

The Bishop of Bedford

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Choir

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

Organ Voluntary: March Heroique

Herbert Brewer

All remain standing as the Church and Civic processions depart

THE CHURCH PROCESSION

Verger

The Archdeacon of Bedford

The Bishop of Bedford

THE CIVIC PROCESSION

The Vicar of St Paul's

The High Sheriff of Bedfordshire

The Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire

In the interests of safety, members of the congregation are asked to leave the church promptly at the end of this service.

