

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL
SUNDAY SERVICE
18 SEPTEMBER 2022

**Call to
worship**

The eternal
God is our
refuge and
underneath
are the
everlasting
arms.

Our help is in
the name of
the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth. As the family of
God, we gather this evening to mourn the loss of a
beloved Queen, to give thanks for her long and happy
reign, and to seek God's blessing upon our King, our
nation, and our own lives.

Opening Prayer

Lord God, we praise you for your love revealed in Jesus
Christ. We thank you that your love is greater than we
can ever imagine and stronger than death itself. So we
know that we can trust you with our loved ones and with
ourselves. Though we enter this house with sorrow in our
hearts, we lift up our hearts in gratitude for all your
blessings to us. Though we come as people burdened by
fear and guilt, we rejoice in the forgiveness you always
offer to us. Though we walk amidst the shadows of
death, we celebrate your promise of new life. Though our
hearts are filled with grief, we do not grieve as those
without hope.

In these days of national mourning, we recall with
gratitude our late Queen, your servant Elizabeth, and the
gifts which you gave to her, and all the ways in which you
sustained her throughout her long life and reign. Hear
our thanks for this nation of ours: for its people and its
places, the human tapestry of young and old, women
and men, the city-dweller and the country folk, our many
creeds and customs, our diverse places and histories, yet
bound together on this night as one people.

May the God of the open heart, and the Christ of
the gentle joy, and the Spirit of the embracing love grant
to each one of us in this place of gathering, the grace that
enhances each life and community. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

3 Selections from the Queen's Broadcasts

'Since my accession ten months ago, your loyalty and
affection have been an immense support and
encouragement. I want to take this Christmas Day,



my first opportunity, to thank you with all my heart.
At my Coronation next June, I shall dedicate myself
anew to your service. I want to show that the Crown
is not merely an abstract symbol of our unity, but a
personal and living bond between you and me.

1950s

Representatives from 42 different parts of the world
gathered to attend the Commonwealth Games.
There are many unpublicised meetings, but it is not
often that the Commonwealth is able to get together
for a great public ceremony. On this occasion it was
sport that brought them to Scotland, and they came
to compete and to enjoy themselves. We entertained
them all in the garden of our home in Edinburgh, and
I was very conscious that each of the athletes I met
represented a country as different and interesting as
those I had been able to visit during the year

1970s

The true measure of Christ's influence is not only in
the lives of the saints but also in the good works
quietly done by millions of men and women day in
and day out throughout the centuries. Many will
have been inspired by Jesus' simple but powerful
teaching: love God and love thy neighbour as thyself
- in other words, treat others as you would like them
to treat you. I know just how much I rely on my own
faith to guide me through the good times and the
bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only
way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take
the long view, to give of my best in all that day brings,
and put my trust in God.

2000-2010

Hymn: Lord for the Years

1. Lord for the years
Your love has kept and guided
Urged and inspired us cheered us on our way
Sought us and saved us pardoned and provided
Lord of the years
We bring our thanks today

2. Lord for that word
The word of life which fires us
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze
Teaches and trains rebukes us and inspires us
Lord of the word
Receive Your people's praise
3. Lord for our land
In this our generation
Spirits oppressed by pleasure wealth and care
For young and old for commonwealth and nation
Lord of our land
Be pleased to hear our prayer
4. Lord for our world
When we disown and doubt Him
Loveless in strength and comfortless in pain
Hungry and helpless lost indeed without Him
Lord of the world
We pray that Christ may reign
5. Lord for ourselves
In living power remake us
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne
Past put behind us for the future take us
Lord of our lives
To live for Christ alone

CCLI Song # 224957

Bible Readings

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’

‘Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?’

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15: 50–58

Prayer

'Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.' And we indeed look to you, Almighty Father. You are the Lord who is beyond time and change through all the myriad courses of history, you have been the one constant that has enabled our wayward humanity to follow a safe pathway. And as we think of our native land and the twists and spirals of its journey to this hour, we are grateful for your care and endless benevolence. And bright among the shine of your blessings through so many years has been the presence of our sovereign.

So, this time of loss touches deep, and with our sadness uncertainty comes to snap at our heels. But then comes your word calling us to stand fast in the faith that our Queen knew and which sustained her through all her days.

So, we turn to it, knowing well that it will uphold and nourish us through this time. Forgive us if ever we forget ourselves and look to another rock than you, or another quarry from which to draw our security. For in you alone is our hope, from you alone is our comfort, through you alone is our nation made whole and strong, and by you alone is our future made secure. Such prayers now we make through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

A prayer to use with children

God, Our Father, all through our country, we are sad at this time, because our Queen is no longer with us. She will be missed by so very many, but we know that you are looking after her. Bless those close to her. May they know they are remembered by us. And bless our country at this time of change. May we all work together as one family, and be ready to serve others, as our Queen served us. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

Song/Offering: Brothers Sister let me Serve you

1. Brother let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace to
Let you be my servant too
2. We are pilgrims on a journey
We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

3. Brother sister let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too

CCLI Song # 72673, Richard Gillard

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

Eternal God, you rule over the past, the present and the future. Receive our thanks this day for the heritage of faith, the words of Scripture, and the hymns of the Church. In times of sudden change and alteration, when we miss the familiar and long for stability, reassure us of the constancy of your love.

Hear our thanks for Elizabeth, our Queen, now departed from us, but blessed by grace, resolute in service, and modest in person through all her days. We lift up our hearts in gratitude for the years of her reign, and the sweep of history through which she provided both anchor and steer.

We thank you for her dedication to this nation and to the Commonwealth, and for all the rich gifts of wisdom, kindness and inclusion she brought to her long decades. We bless you for the myriad lives she touched, and for that radiant presence that reached out to others, bringing comfort in hard times, celebrating achievement and high endeavour, honouring courage and sacrificial service. We thank you for her cheerfulness and commitment, for the steadfast faith that sustained her all her days, and for the determination of her life in the cause of duty.

King of kings and Lord of lords, we thank you for the families she united through her person, those near and dear to her in her own home life, those brought together across this kingdom, and those spread throughout the Commonwealth of nations so close to her heart.

For the Queen's family most nearly touched by her loss, we seek your blessing and support in these days of mourning – the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, the Duke of Wessex, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Sussex, and all their families. Bless Charles, our King, and the Queen Consort. Support our King in these days of preparation. Imbue him with strength of character, openness of heart, keenness of mind, and a generosity of spirit that will sustain him in the time to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And for our nation at this time we pray, seeking comfort in our loss, and hopefulness as we step forward into the days ahead. As our gratitude mingles with sadness, may we support each other and together be communities of tenderness and kindness. Sustain us with the strong memories of the past; strengthen us with hope for generations yet unborn; and renew us for service in our own days of

living. We pray together in the words that Christ has taught us.

The Lord's prayer

Closing Hymn:

For all the Saints who from their labours rest

1. For all the saints
Who from their labours rest
Who Thee by faith
Before the world confessed
Thy name O Jesus
Be forever blest
Alleluia
2. O may Thy soldiers
Faithful true and bold
Fight as the saints
Who nobly fought of old
And win with them
The victor's crown of gold
Alleluia
3. And when the strife is fierce
The warfare long
Steals on the ear
The distant triumph song
And hearts are brave again
And arms are strong
Alleluia
4. From earth's wide bounds
From ocean's farthest coast
Through gates of pearl
Streams in the countless host
Singing to Father
Son and Holy Ghost
Alleluia

CCLI Song # 2645678

National Anthem

**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.**

Benediction

In time of light, in time of darkness,
We gather in this place.
Seeking the solace of faith,
And to be found by the mercy of the living God.
With tears and with laughter,
With the memories of the long years,
On this day we share that which is good
And that which brings us comfort and hope.

And may the grace....