



Order of Service

*To remember those we
have loved and lost*

*Sunday 5th December
St Stephens Church
Redditch - 3.00pm.*

To read before the service

We gather at the season of Advent a time when we look forward to Jesus coming again to renew and restore all things. We do this in the light of His first coming, coming not in power but weakness and vulnerability. The birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus reveal the magitude of God's love for us.

God's love and power extend over all creation. Every life, including our own, is precious to God. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life, and that there is new life in Christ over death.

Even those who share such faith find that there is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one. We will each have had our own experiences of their life and death, with different memories and different feelings of love, grief and respect.

We are all at different stages on the journey of grief and some of you here may be supporting others in their grief. This service today is part of the support offered to each of you on your particular journey.

Welcome and Introduction

Min. We are here in the presence of God, and in the name of Christ. We come together to share in our sadness, but also to look forward with hope; to express loss, but also to give thanks; to recognise death, but also to celebrate life; to look back at all that has been, but also to look forward to all that is yet to be.

Come then in faith, for God is here - the God who has promised that, in life or in death, he is with us, the God who gives all who truly believe the assurance of his eternal blessing.

The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

Hymn

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Bible Reading Romans 8:31-39

More Than Conquerors

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶

As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Address

Hymn

Translation 1

- 1 Silent night, holy night,
 all is calm, all is bright,
 round yon virgin mother and child;
 holy infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace.

- 2 Silent night, holy night.
 Shepherds quake at the sight,
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heav'nly hosts sing 'alleluia:
 Christ, the Saviour is born'.

- 3 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.

Stille nacht! Heilige Nacht! Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) translated John Freeman Young (1820-1885) 6 6 7
7 6 6

Thanksgiving

As we remember and give thanks for those whom we love but see no longer a large candle will be lit.

Stewards will bring a light from this candle to the end of each row. We will then pass on the light to our neighbours.

Min. Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the World.'

He comes to us today to be our light, dispelling the darkness, casting out all fear. The people we remember today have also been a light in our lives. We light a candle to remember their light and give thanks for all they have and ever will be to us.

*The candles are lit as the Primrose choir sings
"You raise me up".*

When all the candles have been lit, we say together:

All Heavenly Father, we look back with gratitude for those we remember today, for everything we have shared together, for their love, for all which made them a special part of our lives. Amen

A candle is lit in memory of those with no one to remember them.

All Loving God, help us to know that your love for those we have remembered, and for us, continues beyond death; that you are with us in this moment and always. And so we pray for your continued comfort, your strength and support, your peace and guidance and your help to laugh and love once more. Amen.

Prayer

Closing with The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Hymn

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

- 2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they 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.

- 4 Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Closing Prayer

All Loving God, we do not know what lies ahead, but we know that, in life and in death, you will always be with us, seeking to enrich our lives.
Grant to us your light which nothing can overcome your peace that defies understanding and your hope which will never be extinguished.
Help us to find comfort in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

**May Christ the good shepherd enfold you with love,
Fill you with peace, and lead you in hope to the end
of your days:
And the blessing of God almighty the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit be with you always. Amen**

*Thank you for joining us for our
Lights of Love Remembrance Service.*

You are welcome to join us for light
refreshments after the service.

*Please feel free to take a moment before or after the
service to view our remembrance book and view
your dedication in person.*

*Please note all the dedications in the book are
from donations we have received prior to the 15th
November. The book will be refreshed with all new
dedications on the 17th December and will be
remain at the Church sites for viewing.*



Primrose Hospice and Family Support Centre is an independent charity, offering care and advice to patients living with a life-limiting condition and supporting their families in the North East Worcestershire area.

Find out more about Primrose Hospice by visiting our website:
www.primrosehospice.org

Charity no: 700272

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01527 547777