

ST JAMES' CHURCH, KING STREET, SYDNEY



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR
THE LIFE, LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP OF

JUDITH MARJORIE ASHTON OAM

(20 October 1943 – 15 June 2021)

Friday 25 March 2021
10:00AM

COVID SAFE

CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

The State Government has mandated new restrictions for attendance at church services. People need to do the following:

- register their names using the church QR code or filling in the form in the Baptistry;
- not attend the service if feeling unwell;
- adhere to physical distancing guidelines and sit in the church at those places marked by a green dot (3 people per pew where all are distanced);
- use hand sanitiser when arriving and leaving;
- be willing to have a temperature check conducted at the door;
- use a face mask (face masks are available for those without their own); &
- must not sing during services.

REGISTER ATTENDANCE

If you have not already done so, please register your attendance at this service by scanning the following Service NSW QR code and completing your personal details.



As Sydney's oldest church, St James' is a place of soul-stirring worship, challenging preaching, and fine music. We are a progressive community that welcomes all people regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, or religion.

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THIS SERVICE

OFFICIANT

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector of St James'

ASSISTANT

The Reverend Glenn Maytum

EULOGY

Tony Ashton
Adrian Ashton

READERS

Geri Ettinger
Andrew Hitchcock Ashton

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Amelia Hitchcock Ashton

ORGANIST

Alistair Nelson

CHOIR OF ST JAMES'

Directed by Warren Trevelyan-Jones
Head of Music

CRUCIFER

Peter Douglas

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

The organist plays 'Schlafe, mein Liebster' from the Christmas Oratorio by J S Bach.

Please stand as the ministers enter the church.

PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Please remain standing.

The Officiant says,

Light immortal, you brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. May we, with Judith and all the baptized, know the full light of your risen presence. **Amen.**

The coffin is sprinkled with water.

In the waters of baptism, we died with Christ, and began to walk in newness of life. May we, with Judith and all the baptized, be brought to the fulfillment of your eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

A copy of the Scriptures is placed upon the coffin.

In life Judith was nourished by the Word of God. May Christ greet us with Judith, saying: 'Come, blessed of my Father!' **Amen.**

A crucifix is placed upon the coffin.

Lord Jesus Christ, you bore our sins on the cross. May this crucifix be a sign to us of your love for Judith, and the forgiveness of her sins. **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION

The officiant welcomes the congregation, then continues,

+ We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

All Grace and peace from the Lord be with you;
and also with you.

We have come together to thank God for the life of Judith Marjorie Ashton, to mourn and honour her, to lay to rest her mortal body, and to celebrate her life. We all face the certainty of death and judgement, yet Christians believe that those who die in Christ share eternal life with him. Therefore, in faith and hope we turn to God, who created and sustains us all.

All + Rest eternal grant unto your servant Judith, O Lord;
and may light perpetual shine upon her.

Let us pray,

All Loving God, you alone are the source of life.
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,
and fill us with compassion, one for another.
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENTENCES

Please be seated.

The Choir sings,

I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord :
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live :
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die,
shall never, shall never die.

(John 11: 25-26)

I know that my redeemer liveth,
and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.
And though after my skin, worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God :
Whom I shall see myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

(Job 19: 25-27)

We brought nothing into this world,
and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away :
blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord.

(1 Timothy 6: 7 & Job 1: 21)

I heard a voice from heav'n saying unto me, write,
from henceforth blessed, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord :
ev'n saith the Spirit : for they rest from their labours.
Ev'n so saith the Spirit : for they rest from their labours. Amen.

Words: Book of Common Prayer 1549, 1662 & 1928
Music: Thomas Morley (1557-1603)

EULOGY

Tony Ashton ☞

Adrian Aston (accompanied by Alexandra Ashton)

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Amelia Hitchcock Ashton plays 'Hey Jude' as we reflect on Judy's life.

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

Read by Geri Ettinger

A reading from the Book Ecclesiastes:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand

in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

For the word of the Lord:
All Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The Choir sings the psalm to a chant by A Nelson.

The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness,
for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SECOND READING

John 14: 1-6

Read by Andrew Hitchcock Ashton.

A reading from the Gospel of John:

Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to 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."

For the word of the Lord:
All Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew Sempell

MUSICAL REFLECTION

The Choir Sings 'Panis Angelicus' by César Franck.

Panis angelicus fit panis hominum;
Dat panis coelicus figuris terminum: O res mirabilis!
Manducatur Dominum pauper, servus et humilis.
Te trina Deitas unaque poscimus: Sic nos tu visita, sicut te colimus;
Per tuas semitas duc nos quo tendimus,
Ad lucem quam inhabitas. Amen.

The angelic bread becomes the bread of men;
The heavenly bread ends all prefigurations: what wonder!
The Lord is eaten by a poor and humble servant.
Triune God, we beg of you: visit us, just as we worship you.
By your ways, lead us where we are heading,
to the light in which you dwell. Amen.

Words: From the hymn 'Sacris solemniis' by St Thomas Aquinas
Music: César Franck (1822-1890)

PRAYERS

Please remain seated.

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father,
who raised Christ his Son from the dead for the salvation of all.

Thanks be to God for the gift of life.

You have made us in your image
and called us to reflect your truth and light.

We thank you for the life of Judy Ashton.

We give thanks for her family life and friends,

and for the inspiration she brought to the lives of those around her.

We thank you for her zest for life, her generosity, her selfless attitude
and her love and concern for the wellbeing of others.

Above all, we thank you for your gracious promise to all your servants,
living and departed, that we shall be made one again
in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort,
deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn,
especially Tony; Alexandra, Adrian, and Lisa; grandchildren
Alex, Jo, Amelia, Andrew, Rebecca, and Edward; and her brother John.
Casting all their care on you,
may they know the consolation of your love:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,
and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy
grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
where there is hatred, let us sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that we
may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console.
To be understood, as to understand. To be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

All As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,
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. **Amen.**

FAREWELL AND COMMITTAL PRAYERS

Please stand.

The officiant says,

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to Judy by water and the Spirit. Grant that her death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in the Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way, to live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Let us entrust Judy to the mercy and love of God:

All Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.
We entrust Judy to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to save us,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
in glory for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life; in your keeping are all those who have departed in Christ; we here commit the body of Judith Marjorie Ashton to be cremated: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and was buried and rose again for us, and who shall change our mortal body that it may be like his glorious body. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

The Choir sings,

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest - to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish - but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith 1824-1908
Tune: ST DENIO - adapted from a Welsh song
set to a hymn in John Roberts *Caniadau y Cyssegere* 1839

During the hymn, the coffin is sprinkled with holy water and censed.

The sprinkling with holy water is to remind us that through the waters of baptism we die to sin and are made one with Christ and begin to walk in newness of life. We pray that God will bring his servant John and all the baptised, to the fulfillment of his Eternal Kingdom.

The incense reminds us that our mortal bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit.

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

The Officiant prays:

May God in his infinite love and mercy
bring the whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus,
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. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

The Choir sings 'In Paradisum' by Gabriel Fauré as the coffin is prepared to leave the church.

*In paradisum deducant te Angeli
in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres,
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.
Angelorum te suscipiat,
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
aeternam habeas requiem, aeternam habeas requiem.*

May the angels lead you into paradise,
may the martyrs receive you in your coming,
and may they guide you into the holy city, Jerusalem.
May the chorus of angels receive you
and with Lazarus, once poor,
may you have eternal rest, may you have eternal rest.

RECESSION

'Hey Jude'

Would you please follow the family out of the church through the west door.

The coffin will remain in the Baptistry as the congregation leaves the church and you are invited to place a flower on it as you pass by. Please then leave the church and wait at the front for the coffin to be placed in the hearse and processed down the street.





Chairman Judy Ashton badges Senator Button at the Symposium



