

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA, DIOCESE OF SYDNEY
ST JAMES, KING STREET

FUNERAL SERVICE IN THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE, LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP OF



Meryl Elizabeth Swinburn

10:30AM
MONDAY 17 MAY, 2021

COVID SAFE

CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

People attending services need to do the following:

register their names using the Service NSW QR code provided,
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, unless seated as a couple or family,
use hand sanitiser when arriving and leaving.

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.

OFFICIANT

The Rev'd John Stewart
Associate Rector of St James'

ASSISTING PRIESTS

The Rev'd Andrew Sempell
Rector of St James'

The Rev'd Dr John Deane
Director of the Anglican Board of Mission

The Rev'd Ron Henderson OGS
Honorary Associate Priest of St James'

TRIBUTES

Liz, John, and Malcolm (Mick) Swinburn

READERS

Ruth Bell & Ros McGrath

CHORISTER OF ST JAMES' KING STREET

Claire Burrell-McDonald

ORGAN

Alistair Nelson
Organist of St James'

ST JAMES' GUILD OF ALTAR SERVERS

Leigh Hess, Jackie Dettmann, Peter & Ross Douglas

ST JAMES' QUEENS SQUARE GUILD OF BELL-RINGERS

Jackie Dettmann
Tower Captain

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prelude on 'Rhosymedre' - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Please stand as the procession enters the church.

HYMN

NEH 408

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, 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 every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore 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.

Words: Charles Wesley 1707-88

Music: BLAENWERN William Rowlands 1860-1937 CCL license 552064

PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

The lit paschal candle stands at the foot of the coffin.

Fr John Light immortal, you brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. May we, with Meryl, 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 Meryl, and all the baptized, be brought to the fulfilment of your eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

A copy of the Scriptures is placed on the coffin.

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

A crucifix is placed on the coffin.

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

INTRODUCTION

Fr Andrew ✠We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

We have come together to thank God for the life of Meryl Elizabeth Swinburn, to mourn and honour her, to lay to rest her mortal body, and to support one another in grief. We face the certainty of our own 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 Meryl, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon her.

Please be seated

SENTENCES

Sung by the chorister

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.

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.

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.

I heard a voice from heav'n, 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)

Please stand.

PRAYER

Fr John 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.

Please be seated.

TRIBUTES

Mick, Liz, and John Swinburn

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Blue Hawaii - Elvis Presley

Read by Ruth Bell

A reading from 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.

A short silence is observed.

Reader Here ends the reading.

PSALM 23

Sung by the chorister to a chant by A.F. 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.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost :
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

SECOND READING

JOHN 14:1-6

Read by Ros McGrath

A reading from the Gospel of St John:

Jesus said, "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 to 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.

A short silence is observed.

Reader Here ends the reading.

HOMILY

Fr Ron Henderson OGS, Honorary Associate Priest, St James'

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Sung by the Chorister

Panis Angelicus - César Franck

PRAYERS

Please remain seated or kneel.

The prayers are led by Fr John Deane, Director of the Anglican Board of Mission

Fr John 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 Meryl. We give thanks for her family life and friends, for the inspiration she brought to the lives of those who knew her. We thank you for her zest for life, her generosity and 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 Mick, Liz, John, James, and Meryl's wider family and friends; that casting all their care on you, they may 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.**

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, peace and concord, and to us and all his servants life everlasting. **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**

Fr Andrew As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,
All 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.

Please stand.

FAREWELL

Fr Andrew leads the following prayer -

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our Sister Meryl 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 your 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.

Let us entrust our sister Meryl to the mercy of God.

Silence is kept then all join together to pray -

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 Meryl Elizabeth 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.

COMMITTAL

Fr John 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 who have departed in Christ. We here commit the body of our dear sister Meryl Elizabeth 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.

All Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

During the final 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 Meryl, and all the baptized, to the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom. The incense honours Meryl's body as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN

NEH 368

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim though this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
 Bread of heaven,
 Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
 Strong Deliverer,
 Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious 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 (1717-91)

Music: CWM RHONNDA, John Hughes (1837-1932) CCL license 552064

SOLEMN BLESSING

Fr John God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Resurrection faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

IN PARADISUM

REQUIEM - FAURÉ

LATIN TEXT

In paradisum deducant te Angeli
in tuo adventu susipient te
maryres, et perducant te in
civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.

Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat,
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
aeternam habeas requiem,
aeternam habeas requiem.

ENGLISH TEXT

*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.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

'Nimrod' from the Enigma Variations - Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934)









Mick, Liz, John, James, and the extended Swinburn family appreciate your kind expressions of sympathy and thank you for your prayerful support. A celebration of Meryl's life will continue following this service at The Mint, 10 Macquarie Street, from 12:45pm.
