

S. JAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK HAWK ACCIDENT AT THE TOWNSVILLE FIELD TRAINING AREA



St James' Church
173 King Street, Sydney

For more information visit
www.sjks.org.au
or call 8227 1300

**SATURDAY 12 JUNE 2021
AT 5 PM**

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 TAKING PART IN THIS SERVICE

OFFICIANT:

The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Rector of St James'

HOMILY:

Chaplain Craig Potter
Senior Chaplain, 2 Division

ASSISTING CHAPLAINS:

Chaplain Tim St Quintin
Coordinating Chaplain, 5 Brigade

Chaplain Stephen Brooks
Command Chaplain, Forces Command

ROLL OF HONOUR:

Warrant Officer Class One Maria Leetham &
Captain Andrew Allport

READERS:

Lieutenant Colonel Col Johnston &
Colonel Jeff Stark

CANTOR:

Brooke Shelley

ORGANIST:

Alistair Nelson

TRUMPETER:

David Elton



IN MEMORIAM

The worst training accident in the histories of the Special Air Service Regiment and the 5th Aviation Regiment occurred on the evening of 12 June 1996, when two S-70-A9 Black Hawk helicopters collided during a live-fire counter-terrorism/special-recovery operation exercise at Fire Support Base Barbara in the High Range Training Area near Townsville, Queensland. This activity was part of Exercise Day Rotor 96 and took place on the second day of the exercise, sometime after 1830hrs, requiring the pilots to use night vision goggles. Six aircraft had been approaching the target area when, 30 seconds from the landing zone, one of the helicopters veered to the right, clipping the tail rotor of another helicopter. One Black Hawk crashed immediately killing 12 personnel on board, while the other was able to make a crash landing but burst into flames, killing six. Crash survivors, soldiers from the other helicopters and exercise staff risked the flames and exploding ammunition to rescue their comrades and retrieve the bodies of the dead. Fifteen members of the Special Air Service Regiment and three from the 5th Aviation Regiment lost their lives in the accident. Fourteen personnel were later officially recognised for their part in the rescue and evacuation operation.

We remember:

1 Squadron (SASR):

Captain Timothy Stevens
Sergeant Hugh Ellis
Corporal Michael Bird
Corporal Andrew Constantinidis
Corporal Darren Oldham
Corporal Brett Tombs
Lance Corporal Gordon Callow
Lance Corporal Glen Hagan
Lance Corporal David Johnstone
Trooper Jonathon Church
Trooper David Frost
Trooper Timothy McDonald

152 Signal Squadron (SASR):

Corporal Mihran Avedissian
Corporal Darren Smith
Signalman Hendrik Peeters

5th Aviation Regiment:

Captain John Berrigan
Captain Kelvin Hales
Corporal Michael Baker

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Frank Bridge (1879-1941) - Adagio in E major

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All stand and sing as the ministers enter the church.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of thy throne,
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: ST ANNE, William Croft (1678-1727)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Please be seated.

The Rector welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

“God is our strength and refuge, a ready help in times of trouble.” (Psalm 46: 1)

We gather to remember with respect those who died, were injured, and whose lives were forever changed by the accident at the Townsville Field Training Area on 12th June 1996. We remember loved ones, work mates and friends; and pray for God’s healing presence upon all who still mourn, who are still to recover, and who are still affected by this tragedy.

In the quiet of this moment, let us draw close to him who hears our prayers; and let us remember that he listens more to our hearts than to our words, and that we are the objects of our love. May the God of all grace so cleanse our hearts and order our minds that they shall be open to the touch of the Spirit of him before whom we now come in reverence and worship.

CANDLE LIGHTING AND THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Please stand.

The names of those who died are read and a candle for each is lit.

SASR:	Mihran Avedissian	Darren Oldham
	Michael Bird	Hendrik Peeters
	Gordon Callow	Darren Smith
	Jonathon Church	Timothy Stevens
	Andrew Constantinidis	Brett Tombs
	Hugh Ellis	
	David Frost	5AVN: Michael Baker
	Glen Hagan	John Berrigan
	David Johnstone	Kelvin Hales
	Timothy McDonald	

A time of silence follows.

The Cantor sings ‘Kyrie’ from Missa Prima Dominicalis by Lodovico Viadana (c.1560-1627).

Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING**Lamentations 3:17-26**

Read by Lieutenant Colonel Col Johnston.

A reading from the book of Lamentations:

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is;
 so I say, 'Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.'
 The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!
 My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.
 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope.
 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'
 The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 121

The Cantor sings,

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 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

Revelation 21:1–4

Read by Colonel Jeff Stark.

A reading from the Revelation of St John:

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.’

Here ends the second reading.

HOMILY

Chaplain Craig Potter

INTERCESSIONS

The Chaplains lead in the intercessions.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Lord God, we thank you for the opportunity
of gathering together as comrades, family and friends.

Today we remember all who were involved in the Black Hawk accident,
and especially those who cannot be with us.

We thank you for life, health and strength;
for our homes, our families and all who are dear to us;
and we ask you to defend us from all harm and ill.

Lord hear us,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

A Prayer for Those Still Affected by the Accident:

Loving God, we pray for all whose lives were broken by this experience,
and especially those who remain affected by it still today.

Give them healing of mind, body and soul;
strengthen them for service; and guide those who seek to support them.

Lord hear us,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

A Prayer for the Australian Defence Force:

Almighty God,
 we pray for all who serve our country
 as members of the Army, Navy and Air Force.
 Grant that they may serve the cause of justice and peace
 with discipline and loyalty;
 may they have courage in the face of danger,
 and be inspired by a spirit of love and goodwill for all people.

Lord hear us,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer:

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 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.

MOTET

The Cantor sings 'Nunc Dimittis' by Geoffrey Burgon (1941-2010).

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
 according to thy word.
 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
 which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
 to be a light to lighten the gentiles
 and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
 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

Last Post

Silence

The Rouse

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

All: Australians all let us rejoice
 for we are one and free;
 we've golden soil and wealth for toil,
 our home is girt by sea.
 Our land abounds in nature's gifts
 of beauty rich and rare.
 In history's page, let every stage
 Advance Australia Fair.
 In joyful strains then let us sing
 Advance Australia Fair.

BENEDICTION

Please remain standing.

The Rector says,

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest;
 to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth,
 and all mankind, peace and concord;
 and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

George Thalban-Ball (1896-1987) - Elegy, arr. for trumpet and organ.

Please remain standing as the ministers leave.