

A time of reflection to remember

William (Bill) Ashdown

Friday 1st May 2020 at 4.30pm

When someone you love dies, saying goodbye in some formal way is important. This is one of the reasons that throughout the generations we have gathered for funerals and memorial services. With the current restrictions on movement in place it may not be possible for everyone to attend a funeral. The words offered are a mix of the funeral liturgy and original materials. The music and reading used for this time of reflection mirror those for the service of commendation and committal at the crematorium, and if you click on the title of the music it will take you to a link on YouTube. Bill loved the band of the Royal Marines and so all the music is played by them.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

You may like to light a candle and listen to [Nimrod](#).

Some words of comfort:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end,
they are new every morning

Lamentations 3:22

God says: "I will never leave you: I will never
abandon you"

Hebrews 13:5

Opening Prayer *Read this prayer out loud*

Loving God, I hold Bill before you.
I thank you for the good times
we shared together.
I hold before you the challenging times.
Be close to me, and to all those people
who knew and loved Bill.
May we know the peace of your presence today
and in the days to come.
I know there are no words I can say
at this moment to take away the pain.
I come as I am,
knowing you bind us together in love;
in this world and the next.
So, take this moment
and help me know your presence with me,
now and always. Amen

A TIME WITH GOD'S WORD

*The Bible has a lot to say about the meaning of
life and God's command over death itself. We
turn to scripture, as generations have done
before us, that from them we might draw
comfort and strength.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

Psalm 121

New Revised Standard Version

TIME TO REFLECT

Think about the reading –
which words particularly speak to you?
What do you need to hear from God today?
Now take a few moments to think about Bill.
If you are with someone else
share your memories together.
What was special about him?
What was the best thing you did together?
When you think about Bill, is there a song or a
special place or time that comes to mind?
What particularly would you like to thank God
for about their life?

Take time to be still

A time of prayer

Loving God,
you tell us to look forward to a day
when your kingdom shall come
and your will be done;
a time when there will be
no more sorrow and death
and when every tear
will be wiped from our eyes.
Until that time comes,
help us to find comfort in your love.

I commend Bill to you,
grant them your eternal peace.
I pray for Bill's family, friends, neighbours
and for each person who is so much poorer
now Bill is no longer with us in the same way.
*You might like to list people who you would like
to pray for.*
Support us all in the days ahead. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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.

A TIME TO LEAVE THE ONE WE LOVE TO GOD'S LOVE AND CARE.

Eternal rest grant unto Bill,
whose earthly life is past.
Perpetual light shine down on him;
may he rest in peace at last.

Eternal life grant unto Bill,
whose laughter now we've lost,
whose presence and whose smiles we miss
but never mind the cost.

Eternal joy grant unto Bill,
whose suffering now is through,
his pain and illness finally gone,
his mind and heart renew.

Eternal rest grant unto Bill,
all friends and foes together;
forgive them all their trespasses
may they rest in peace for ever.

If you are able, read aloud:

Travel on Bill from this world,
in the name of God the Father,
who created you in love;
in the name of Jesus Christ
who sets you free from sin;
in the name of the Holy Spirit
who brings us all into new life.
Rest in peace, in God's love,
now and forever. Amen.

*You may like to listen to the [Ashokan Farewell](#),
this will be played for the committal.*

A closing prayer

Gracious God
Support me and all who loved Bill
in the days ahead
and give us the comfort you have promised,
until the time comes when we can remember
not just with sorrow but with joy.

*Blow out the candle and spend a few minutes
in the quiet*

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life,
those who believe in me, even though they die
will live, and everyone who lives and believe in
me will never die".

Concluding Music [Highland Cathedral](#)

Some materials from The Methodist Worship Book ©
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Original Materials by The Revd Paul Wood