

## Sunday worship at Home 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Opening Sentence:** Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. *John 11: 25,26*

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, not depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
*Romans 8:38,39*

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father, grace, mercy and peace be with you.

Today we remember before God His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one with him, through whom we offer our prayers and praises to the Father.

O God make speed to save us.

**O Lord make haste to help us.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls: you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise forever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness, who walk in the shadow of death, so remember in your kingdom your faithful servant Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, that death for may be for him the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen**

### **Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,<sup>[a]</sup>

I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen**

### **The Gospel reading from John 6: 35-40**

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

**Reflection on the Gospel:** Jesus had miraculously just fed 5000 men, even more if we include women and children, with only five small loaves and two small fish! Perhaps the people wanted Jesus to continue to provide their food without them having to work for it, but they missed Jesus' point. So, Jesus gives it straight, "I am the bread of life". With these few words, Jesus offers himself to us as God, or to use an OT word Yahweh, to provide for us spiritual life and eternal life after death. Jesus goes on to say that "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me, will never be thirsty." In Jesus, **all our spiritual hunger and thirst is satisfied**, we have this blessing from Jesus as long as we believe in him. The important point here is that we choose to "believe" and live our lives faithfully with God through his grace, by studying his word through reading the bible and receiving the sacraments with others in our church communities. The most comforting words of the gospel passage come at the end "And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day". That is the belief of us all and because of that promise we can find comfort through the tears when someone we love dies. Our prayers are with the queen today as she comes to term with the death of Prince Philip, her husband and consort of over 70 years. For all their extraordinary married life Philip was her as husband, friend and mainstay, he firmly led the family and supported the Queen – he was her rock in times of trouble. The death of a hardworking man at the age of 99 years old should not come as a shock, but the truth is that whenever death calls, it is never the right time, and the family will be in shock. Like the rest of us at such times, they will have to grieve in their own way for the man they loved and respected, but in the end they will know that their lives were richer for having him as husband, father, grandfather or whatever capacity it was. Prince Philip's health had been deteriorating for some time, but the family dealt with that in their own quiet way and it seems that God called him quietly home with family present at his side. Like the Queen, Prince Philip was a man of faith who believed firmly in God, his hard-working time on earth is done, he has no more pain or distress. He is at peace because he has received God's glorious promise for himself, the promise of eternal life with God the Father, who created him and loves him. **Amen**

Be still and pray:

Lord have mercy upon us. **Christ have mercy upon us.** Lord have mercy upon us

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God **And there shall be no torment in them.**  
You Lord have delivered my soul from death, **my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.**

**The Lord's prayer.** Our Father who art in heaven.....

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with your servant Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection: that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may, with them, enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort; deal graciously, we pray with all who mourn, the members of the Royal Family, their household, this Nation and Nations of the Commonwealth, that, casting all our care on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Commendation:**

Into your hands, O Father and Lord, we commend your servant Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Enlighten him with your holy grace and suffer him never to be separated from you, O Lord in Trinity, God everlasting. **Amen**

**The Blessing:**

May God, in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed, to a joyful resurrection and 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**

In your own home, sing the National Anthem.

*Rev'd Irene with thanks for Guidance from the Church of England*