

**AN ORDER FOR A FUNERAL SERVICE
WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION**

Friends, we have come together for the funeral of Jane Smith

We come to mourn a relative, to honour a departed friend and to show sympathy to Jane's children & their spouses: Larry & Glenn, Warren & Julie, David, Brian & Yvette, Mark & Susan and to Jane's grandchildren James, Kerry, Stephanie, & Matthew.

We believe that those who die in Christ share eternal life with him. Therefore in faith and hope we come together to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and trust to God for what he has done for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We recall the certainty of our own coming death and judgement, and we proclaim that Christ is risen and that those who believe in him will rise with him.

Jesus said:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

and

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11:25, 26)

The Bible says:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3,4)

HYMN: "How Great Thou Art" (in the service sheet or the PowerPoint)

EULOGY: Robert Smith

PRAYER:

Father, your love is stronger than death. Those who trust in your Son receive the gift of eternal life. Help us, as we hear your promises, to believe them and receive the comfort they offer. You are the giver of hope; fill us with joy and peace in believing, so that we may have abundant life through the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: "Amazing Grace" (in service sheet)**Bible Reading:****Funeral Bible Talk:**

Here enter your short funeral Bible Talk (resonate, dismantle, gospel).

Let us pray:

God of all grace, who in Jesus Christ our Saviour brought eternal life: we give you thanks that by his death he has destroyed the power of death and sin, and by his resurrection opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Grant us to know and believe that because he lives, those who trust in him will live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate your adopted children from your love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

O Heavenly Father, who in your Son Jesus Christ has given us a true faith and a sure hope: help us, we pray, to live as those who believe and trust in the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to life everlasting; and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our life, through the love of your Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

O Lord our Father, we thank you for the life of Jane, for all your goodness to her, for all that she was to those who loved her and for everything in her life that reflected your goodness and love.

We thank you that in Jesus Christ for her death is past and pain is ended and that she has entered the joy which you have prepared; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, strengthen Jane's children & their spouses: Larry & Glenn, Warren & Julie, David, Brian & Yvette, Mark & Susan and to Jane's grandchildren James, Kerry, Stephanie, & Matthew; enable them to look to Jesus Christ for encouragement and hope, that through the Scriptures they may place their trust in the God who raised him from the dead.

These things we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

Our Father who 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will now go to the lawn cemetery on Simpson's Road for a brief committal service. Any who would wish to attend are welcome. The committal service will be followed by a light luncheon in the church hall to which you are also invited.

HYMN: The Old Rugged Cross (in service sheet)

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you: I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

The Committal

In a moment we are going to commit Jane's body to the ground.

It's always hard to say goodbye. This is the hardest of all. Knowing we will not see our loved one in this life again. Yet let's allow this time to move us to trust in the one who has all power over death, the Lord Jesus, whom God raised from the dead...

Before we commit Jane's body to the ground, let's briefly pray...

Almighty and everlasting God. Right now we put aside any proud ideas that we're in control. And we acknowledge that you are God and you alone. We know that Jane really has left us and that we are now burying the shell...yet this is in some ways our final goodbye...so we look to you for strength as we recognise that Jane has left us and we will not see her again in our life here on earth. We ask you for your help. In the name of Jesus your Son we pray. Amen.

Jesus said:

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
(John 11:25, 26)

He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces. (Isaiah 25:8)

The Lord says:

'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!' (Revelation 1:17b, 18)

The pastor may choose one of the following:

Having given thanks for the life of our brother N....., we now commit his mortal body to the ground/ to be cremated, earth to earth, ashes to

ashes, dust to dust, [in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life] through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died, was buried, and rose again for us. To him be glory for ever.

Or

Seeing that the earthly life of our brother has come to an end we commit his body to be buried/cremated, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, [confident of the resurrection to eternal life] through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Or

Seeing that the earthly life of our brother has come to an end we commit his body to be buried/cremated, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the knowledge that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him has eternal life.

Or

Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God to take from life on earth N....., we therefore commit his body to the ground/to be cremated, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, trusting in the mercy of Almighty God, to whom we shall all give an account.

Or

Almighty God, we commit N..... to the grave/to be cremated, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, trusting and believing your promise of the resurrection to eternal life, through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord who died that we might live, and who lives that we might believe.

O Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ you have given us a true faith and a sure hope: help us to live as those who believe and trust in the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to eternal life, and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our life, through the love of your son Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, that casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing:

Go in peace: the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A reminder that this committal service will be followed by a light luncheon in the church hall to which you are also invited.