



Order of Bereavement Service

Second Sunday of Advent

**4 December 2022
3 pm**



"A penny for your thoughts"

**Worship led by:
Rev Dr AJ Groenewald
Musicians:
Martin Petty and choir**

Gathering of God's People

Words of welcome and announcements.

Good afternoon and welcome to our annual bereavement service.

Please join us after the service in the St Joseph's Hall for a cuppa.

Please also read more of the all the dates, times and venues of our Christmas services in the intimation sheet in your orders of service.

Thank you to Kay Coull and all her helpers for arranging the refreshments tonight... and everyone else who is taking part in our service... thank you to all our choir members who is singing ...your contribution is very much appreciated.

My prayer I that this service will help you in your journey of grief, loss and bereavement.

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship (Deuteronomy 32)

Minister: In a desert land he found him, in
a barren and howling waste. He
shielded him and cared for him;
he guarded him as the apple of
his eye,

All: **like an eagle that stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young, that
spreads its wings to catch them
and carries them aloft.**

Beloved I greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

CH4 559

There is a Redeemer

Opening prayer and the Lord's Prayer Thomas Griffin

We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

ALL: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

A Penny For Your Thoughts by CJ Heck read by John Burnside

Reflecting on God's Word

Reading: Psalm 68:4-13,19-20,34-35

Reader: Kay Coull

Sermon

Someone once said that to be bereaved is like learning to walk again...

It evokes so much emotion in and around us ...that often we feel overwhelmed, tired and traumatized.

Most of us struggle to find the right words to describe how we feel and even NOT feel... which makes us irritated towards others when

they say: I know how you feel?

It is also true of most of us are often lost in our thoughts ... we do not know what to think and what NOT to think... which often lead to sleepless and restless nights ...

I think the phrase: “A penny for your thoughts” is a good depiction for anyone suffering loss, bereavement and trauma....because we do not know what the person who is experiencing bereavement and trauma are thinking! We do not understand the depth of their pain and loss. We do not understand their anguish, hurt and trauma ...which means that the person who is experiencing loss, is often alone, lost for words and lost in thoughts...

This can lead to more pain, anguish and feeling isolated and alone which is not good for our mental health and wellbeing... it is almost as if we then find ourselves in a Bermuda triangle of chaos, darkness and devastation....

BUT the big question is how do we escape this almost “natural” spiral loss of control ...?

At the other end of the spectrum there is also those who are bereaved and would like to talk about their journey of loss and bereavement but do not know how to bridge the subject ...

A few weeks ago I was conducting a funeral and the family did not tell me that there will be a primary pupil in attendance ... He was very upset and unbeknownst to me, it was his first

funeral at a crematorium. SO I simply could not go on as if he is not in the room... BUT I had nothing with me like a memory blanket or memory box to help him. And just like that a thought crossed my mind...

I took out a 20 pence coin from my wallet which I handed to him. I then asked him who's face is on the coin. He answered the Queen ... I then asked him to tell me where the Queen was... He pointed to the skies. I said yes she is in heaven but we are reminded of her by looking at her face on the coins. Our memories of her is very important. Every time he looks at that coin, he is reminded of her life! I then explained that although his family member is not here on this earth anymore – she is not forgotten. If he finds a photo or something that reminds him of his

family member, she will always be alive in his mind.

In the same way can this example help us to start conversations – either by having a photo of our loved ones beside us which will prompt strangers to ask questions ,, and it will also be a reminder for us that by keeping their memories alive they will always be a part of us....

And Let's face it - ONLY God knows the extent of our grief, loss and trauma...

So if we need to have a reminder that God is here – we just need to look around us ... We are not alone ... and whenever we struggle to form words to express how we feel – God knows it already.

He is in the words of the Psalm indeed a God of mercy and love. He grieved too when He was on earth.

Let us not forget that “neither the world above nor the world below—there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

So when you walk out tonight, look at your 5 penny coin and know that you are reminded of someone whom you loveand remember. In the words of a poem by John McCreery:”They are not dead, they have but passed
Beyond the mists that blind us here
Into the new and larger life

Of that serener sphere”

Amen



Lighting of the candles

Minister: All our laughter and sadness,
Minister: All our anger, all our gladness,
Minister: All our stories, all our memories,
Minister: Those we remember, those we love,
Safe now in God’s hands.

Choir sings “The day you gave us, Lord, has ended”

Responding to God’s word

Prayer of thanksgiving: David Booth

CH4 419

Thine be the glory

Benediction Receive the blessing of God and go in peace:

May your thoughts become clear when you
express your feelings

May your grief be consoled when you know
God is near

And may the peace, hope and love that
exceeds all human understanding guard your
heart and thoughts in Christ Jesus

And may the blessing of God the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and
forever more...

Sung Amen, Amen, Amen

PRAYER

Loving God,
we pray for all those people whose lives feel like a wilderness:
For the lonely, the lost, the searching, the sick,
the broken and bereaved.

We pray that they will find their way to you. Amen

You are invited to stay for tea and coffee which are served in the hall.



BALERNO PARISH CHURCH

Intimations

Sunday, 4 December 2022

WORSHIP SERVICES

Third Advent 11 December @ 10 am Gift service
Fourth Advent 18 December @ 10 am Lessons and Carols
24 December @ 18:00 Christingle service
24 December @ 23:30 Watchnight service
25 December @ 10 am Christmas day service



THE MILL CAFÉ

Open Tuesday – Friday, 9.30am – 2pm
Serving teas/coffees, home baking, snack lunches.
We are a friendly group and are *always delighted to welcome new volunteers to our team*. Pop in and see what we are all about.

THANKS TO YOU...

Thank you for all your generous contributions towards the ministry and mission of the Church. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the wallets at the end of each row.

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