

St. Milburga's, Church Stretton

Requiem Mass

for

Helen Mary Townend



February 8th, 1941 – June 14th, 2023

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GREETING & INTRODUCTORY RITES

Canon Jonathan:

The grace and peace of God our Father who raised Jesus from the dead,
be always with you.

All: *And with your spirit*

Opening Hymn

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand has made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art.*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;
When I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art.

O Støre Gud by Karl Boberg (1859 - 1940)
Translated by Stuart K. Hine (1899 - 1989)
Swedish folk melody, arranged by Stuart Hine

PENITENTIAL RITE

Canon Jonathan:
Lord Jesus, you were lifted up to draw all people to yourself.
Lord, have mercy.

All: *Lord, have mercy.*

You shouldered the cross, to bear our suffering and sinfulness
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You open for your people the way from death into life.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins and brings us to everlasting life.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We sit to listen to the readings from Sacred Scripture

First Reading

Isaiah 25: 6 - 9

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 23

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green. He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill.
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my days
Shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Words from *The Scottish Psalter* (1650)
Melody by Jessie Seymour Irvine (1836 - 1887)
Harmonisation by William McKie (1901 - 1984)

Second Reading

Romans 14: 7 - 12

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: *Thanks be to God*

GOSPEL

All Stand for the Gospel and we say:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;

Whoever believes in me will never die.

Alleluia!

Canon Jonathan: The Lord be with you:

All: *And with your Spirit.*

Canon Jonathan: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

All: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

John 14: 1 - 6

Canon Jonathan concludes: 'The Gospel of the Lord'

All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

(Please be seated)

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response to each prayer is:

Canon Jonathan: Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, graciously hear us*

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day,
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories fade away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O, thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need the presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793 - 1847)

William Henry Monk (1825 - 1889)

The main responses in the Prayers of the Mass

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Canon Jonathan: The Mystery of Faith...

*Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.*

Communion Rite

*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.*

Canon Jonathan continues alone:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, ... and the coming of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

Communion Motet

Ave verum corpus
William Byrd (1540 - 1623)

Eulogies from members of Helen's family

PRAYERS OF COMMENDATION

Canon Jonathan:

Saints of God, come to her aid!
Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord!

All: *Receive her soul and present him to God the Most High.*

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself:
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Receive her soul and present her to God the Most High.

Canon Jonathan:

In peace let us take Helen to her place of rest.

All: *Thanks be to God*

Music:

Hine e Hine

Composed by Fanny Howie

Po Atu Ratu (Now is the hour)

Music attributed to Albert Saunders

Both songs sung by Kiri Te Kanawa



If you would like to make a donation in Helen's memory, this would be very gratefully accepted. Gifts received will be shared between some of the many charities that Helen supported.

Donations can be left with the Funeral Directors or with Canon Jonathan.

Refreshments are provided for everybody after the service.

Please come to the Yew Tree in All Stretton.

Members of Helen's family will join everybody else there after her interment.

