A Celebration of the Life of

John Stemp

1938-2023

Friday 18 August 2023
10.00 am
Music before the service

Chan Chan

Buena Vista Social Club
The Reverend Canon Philip Banks gives

The Welcome

Everyone stands to sing

The 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 pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy 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, O abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Words: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793 – 1847
Music: William Henry Monk, 1823-1889

Everyone sits as Jazmine Stemp gives

The Eulogy
Everyone remains seated as the tenor sings

The Anthem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panis angelicus</th>
<th>The bread of the angels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fit panis hominum;</td>
<td>becomes the bread of mortals;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dat panis coelicus</td>
<td>the bread of heaven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Figuris terminum:</td>
<td>puts an end to prefigurations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>O res mirabilis!</td>
<td>O wondrous thing!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manducat Dominum</td>
<td>the poor, the slave and the humble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pauper, servus et humilis.</td>
<td>feed on their Lord.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Words: Saint Thomas Aquinas, 1822-1890
Music: César Franck, 1822-1890

Everyone remains seated as Canon Philip Banks reads

The Bible Reading

For everything there is a season,
   and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones,
   and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3.1—8, NRSV
Everyone remains seated as Elizabeth French reads

The Poem

Remember Me

To the living, I am gone,
To the sorrowful, I will never return,
To the angry, I was cheated,
But to the happy, I am at peace,
And to the faithful, I have never left.
I cannot speak, but I can listen.
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.
So as you stand upon a shore
Gazing at a beautiful sea, remember me.
As you look in awe at a mighty forest
And its grand majesty, remember me.
As you look upon a flower
And admire its simplicity, remember me.
Remember me in your hearts:
In your thoughts, and the memories of the
Times we loved, times we cried,
the battle we fought and the times we laughed.
For if you always think of me, I will never have gone.

Margaret Mead, 1901-1978

Everyone remains seated to hear

The Hymn

How great thou art
The FRON Male Voice Choir

Everyone remains seated as David Hayles speaks.

Giving Time
Everyone remains seated or kneels as Canon Philip Banks leads

The Prayers

including

A prayer for those who mourn

We pray for those closely affected by John’s death: for Felicity, Kevin and Nigel, who mourn the passing of a husband and father. Also David and Elizabeth who mourn their stepfather and for all who grieve today.

God we thank you for family life, for all human relationships and for the strength we can draw from one another. Have compassion on those for whom this parting brings particular pain and the deepest sense of loss. Casting their cares on you, may they know the gentleness of your presence and the consolation of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All Amen.

The prayers conclude with

The Lord’s Prayer

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 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.
Everyone remains seated as Nigel Stemp shares Memories

Everyone stands for

The Commendation

We commend John to the mercy of God our Maker.

Go forth upon your journey from this world,
   O Christian Soul.
Go in the name of God the Father almighty
   who created you;
Go in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered for you;
Go in the name of the Holy Spirit who strengthened you.
In communion with the blessed saints,
and aided by angels and archangels,
and all the armies of the Heavenly Host,
May your portion this day be in peace,
and your dwelling the heavenly Jerusalem.

All Amen.
Everyone remains standing to sing

The Hymn

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well:

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895
Music: All Things Bright and Beautiful,
William Henry Monk, 1823-1889
Everyone remains standing as Canon Philip Banks gives

The Blessing

May God keep you in all your days,
may Christ shield you in all your ways,
may the Spirit bring you healing and peace,
and may the blessing of God the Holy Trinity
the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit
drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light,
now and always.

All Amen.

The Recessional Music

April in Paris from the album Basie One More Time

Felicity and John’s families thank you for coming today
and hope you will join them for refreshments at
Ashlar House, 23 Eastern Way, IP32 7AB.

Donations, if desired, to:
West Suffolk Swimming Club / Upbeat Heart Support,
c/o Armstrongs Funeral Service.
Thanks

Felicity and family wish to thank all those who gave them and John support, comfort, prayers and shared memories these last months.

A special thank you to the Community Nursing Team for their exemplary care to enable John to stay in the home he loved.