

# BETTY HAMILTON



## **Introduction**

As a church we would like to give you the opportunity to remember Betty and we extend our condolences to all who mourn for her. We hope that this may be a comfort in difficult circumstances.

## **At the Gravesite**

### Call to Prayer

The apostle Paul says: "There is nothing in death or in life in the world as it is or the world as it shall be nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8, 38-39). We take the time to remember our sister Elizabeth Reid Rusk Hamilton, to commit her body to the ground and to commend her to God's grace.

## Prayer

Gracious God,

You have promised to lead us safely through the dark valley to green pastures, you have promised to be with each of us by day and by night, in the days of joy as well as in times of sadness. This time of heartache is the time to remember your promise and to bring all loss and pain before you. It is the time to remember Betty's life with gratitude for all that she was to those who knew and loved her and to give you thanks for a life of hard work and dedication, a life of love and care and friendship. May it be a comfort to those who loved Betty that her life touched many here on earth, that she was close to many and that she is now close to God.

We thank you for a happy childhood full of close and unbreakable friendships, for a kind and unselfish lady, who was there for anyone who needed her. May those cherished memories be a sign for your love and your comfort.

We give you thanks for a life of hard work and duty, for a lady who cared for others, was reliable and steadfast to her parents as much as to her husband and friends, for a lady who cheerfully went about her tasks and was always ready to help when she was needed. May she now rest from her labours

We give you thanks for your promise that as your son has risen from the dead you will raise all to eternal life, where we will see you face to face. In this sad hour you are with us in the assurance that you have sent your son Jesus Christ, so none is lost, that you have sent him to provide a place for everyone, and all who knew and loved Betty can live in the assurance that she has now found a place in your house as we all will

Loving God,

You know the hearts of all, who come to you, you know the pain that comes from being far from Betty's side, from being unable to say good-bye, but you also know that love knows no barriers, friendship knows no distance. May we be able to find your peace, a peace that is not of this world in these difficult times. Loving God, we know that you have loved the world so much that you have sent your son so that we may live. We now entrust Betty and all who mourn her and miss her into your hands.

In Jesus name. AMEN

Reading:

## **Psalm 2**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

### Committal

Blessed are those who die in the LORD, for they will rest from their labour and their deeds will follow them. (Revelation 14,13)

Elizabeth Reid Rusk Hamilton is committed to the ground 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 and is alive and reigns for evermore

### Benediction

And the God who is higher than our understanding guard us and guide us in this life and beyond, and the almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit be with us all. AMEN

**Please scroll down**

## **Eulogy**

The psalmist said: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me” (Psalm 23, 4) and so I would like to share my firm hope and belief – and I know, it was Betty’s belief, too - that she is now in a place where grief and sorrow, pain and fear can no longer touch her, that God has guided her through the dark valley to his pastures.

And yet, it is hard for all who cared for Betty, loved her, shared part of her life, who shared joy and sorrow with her, that she is beyond the reach of human touch, that her voice fell silent and her smile has become a memory and so it is right to acknowledge the grief for a person who touched so many lives and to take the time to remember who Betty was.

Elizabeth Reid Rusk Hamilton was born on 24 February 1937 in Ayr, in Mill Street to James Agnew, a first aid instructor and his wife Laura, who looked after the family and here she grew up together with her brother Jim and her sister Helen. By all accounts Betty was a cheerful and popular little girl and formed firm friendships with two girls in particular: Marion and Mary, friendships that would last a lifetime, 68 years to be precise and stood the test of time when Marion moved down to England. In fact, the distance never prevented mutual visits between Marion and Betty and later on Marion’s children Alison,

Frances and Gary and the children were spoiled on a regular basis by Betty. Frances remembers in particular the trips to the cinema and to the Carlton for adult size portions of ice cream. Those coveted and in England unattainable treats like Scotch Pies, tablet or Irn Bru were always in the house when the children came up to see Betty.

Betty was an incredibly hard worker and hardly ever missed a day at work. Even after a heart attack, when she was in her forties, Betty was desperate to get back to her duties. Like many girls of her generation she went straight to work from school, when she was employed in a bakery, where she stayed until her retirement. Betty was never idle and when she left work, she still took on a cleaning job in the Town Hall.

Through her friend Mary Betty met the love of her life Bobby rather late in life, when she was already 37 years old, but that did not hinder a lifelong selfless devotion. It was the couple's great delight, when they discovered that Bobby, who had been orphaned as a child, had a brother in Australia and the two families developed a close bond. Betty maintained contact with her niece Linda all her life. Towards the end of Bobby's life, she nursed him through his last days until he passed away in 2009. She was unwavering in her care, even when Alzheimer's disease sometimes made that challenging as she had been unwavering in her care for her mother before who had suffered from Parkinson's. At that time, she and brother Jim and sister Helen presented a united front to the world, although it was probably Betty

who shouldered the lion's share of the work. Betty's selfless and caring nature was not restricted to her family and when best friend Marion came up to Scotland to look after a mother suffering from cancer, Betty helped in any way she could by doing the laundry for instance. These acts of kindness, this giving up time for her friend was never forgotten by the entire family.

Faith and church life played a great part in Betty's life from her early childhood to the last days of her life. She would sit in her pew every Sunday without fail and it was through her involvement in the young mothers' group of the congregational church that she became a "founding member" of the Tuesday Group, who regularly met for coffee – with cups and saucers, mind – in each other's houses and later on in town. This group proved again that Betty was able to forge lifelong friendships and it is not too long ago – when she herself was no longer physically fit - that she insisted on visiting her Tuesday friend Elene in hospital and it was Betty on this visit who conjured up the memories of good old times for Elene.

Betty took it quite hard in the last years of her life that she was no longer as fit and mobile as she had been when she was travelling the world from Australia to Spain, when she joined a walking group and went on daytrips to Blackpool or on outings to the theatre, when she went down to Newton Shore as a matter of habit to remember her Dad. She did not like to be confined to the house, but she was fortunate in the help she had from Sylvia for the daily tasks or from

Bill and Ina who took her to church and she mentioned these acts of friendship often and with gratitude.

It is incredibly hard for the many people who were fortunate enough to have known Betty and who gained her friendship that it is not possible to pay their respect and say good bye in person, that it was not possible to see her during her last day in hospital and so it may be a comfort that Betty did not suffer, was not in pain and it is my sincere hope that it may be a comfort that she is now – as I firmly believe – with God and at peace, a peace that the world cannot give. AMEN

### **A prayer for the home**

Loving God,

We come to you with our grief and our sorrow, we bring to you the unspeakable pain that we cannot accompany Betty on her last journey, that we must say our good-byes from the distance of our homes.

And yet we are grateful to have known Betty, we give you thanks for the privilege to have shared a part of Betty's life, to have been able to walk alongside her on life's journey for a while.

We pray for strength as we bid our farewell and pay our respect in different ways and in different circumstances to a lady who meant much to us and to all those whose lives she touched.

We pray that our troubled hearts may find rest, as we entrust Betty to God's grace, as we prepare for the time that comes for us, who are left behind.

We ask that we can find comfort in you and in those who loved her and love us,  
that we will find the peace you have promised to us and to everyone, a peace only you can give, a peace that is not of this world.

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN

