

# Catriona Colthart



## **Introduction**

As the congregation of St James, we would like to express our sincere condolences to Catriona's family and convey our assurance that we mourn with them. Catriona was a valued member of our congregation and we will miss her. We hope that this service will bring comfort to all who were close to Catriona.

## **Gathering/ Call**

The grace and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

The Bible says: 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. We have gathered here in this sad hour to take our leave of Catriona Joanna Colthart to remember her life and to commend her to God's grace, we grieve for Catriona because a loved and loving sister, mother, grandmother. great grandmother and friend is no longer with us, we remember her with gratitude for all she meant to us and we take comfort in the thought that Catriona may be beyond our reach, but is not, as I firmly believe beyond God's loving care, as was promised to us through Jesus Christ when he said : I will be with you to the end of time.

## Prayer

Gracious God,

You have promised that your unfailing love will follow us all the days of our lives, in the days of joy as well as in times of grief. In remembering your promise and in bringing our loss before you we also remember Catriona's life with gratitude for all that she was to those who knew and loved her and we give you thanks for a content and a fulfilled life. May it be a comfort to all that Catriona was valued by many here on earth and that she is precious to you beyond this life.

We thank you for the memories we share of a life that was happy and content, for childhood treasures on grandpa's fishing boat and visits to auntie and uncle in London, for Catriona's dancing skills and the memories she made and treasured through them, for a busy and varied work life.

We thank you for the love and warmth Catriona gave and received in her friendships and her family life, for the brothers and sister she grew up with, for the family she found in Canada, whom she

embraced and who embraced her, for the home she gave to her children and grandchildren.

We thank you for Catriona's life and for the eternal life you have promised her from now on at your side through your son Jesus , where she will find eternal peace, peace that this world cannot give, In this sad hour let us all remember that you have sent your son Jesus Christ, so none of us is lost, that you have sent him to provide a place for each of us, let us live in the assurance that Catriona has now found a place in your house, as we all will.

Loving God,

You know that times of grief and loss can disrupt our lives, overwhelm us and leave us in pain. May we be able to seek and find your comfort in times of sadness and grief and may we be assured that you keep us and all our family, living and departed, in your loving hand.

Loving God, we know that you have loved us before we were born and that your son has given his life as a ransom for many. We entrust Catriona and ourselves to your loving and forgiving care in this time of sadness and grief. For this we pray in Jesus name.

AMEN

## **Music: Abide with me**

### **Reading OT: Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;

<sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD watches over you—  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;

<sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

### **Reading NT: Gospel of John 14**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God<sup>[a]</sup>; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid

## **Eulogy**

It is a great sadness for us that we cannot take our leave as we normally would, that some who would like to be here cannot, but we will honour Catriona's life, a life that was precious to us and is precious to God still and so let us now take a moment to remember our time with Catriona, the respect and love she gained throughout her life, and then let us commend her to God's grace.

Jesus said : I am going to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and take you to myself so that where I am you shall be also, and so we take our leave of Catriona in the assurance that she is now with Christ Jesus, as he has promised to her and to all of us.

And yet, it is hard for all who loved her, for all who accompanied her on the path of life, journeyed with her through her time on earth, took the steps on the road of time with her, may those be many or few, that she is now beyond our reach and so let us take the time to share the sorrow we feel for a person who was important to all who have come here and let us take the time to share the memories of who Catriona was and let us do so in the words of her daughters.

Thank you for joining us today to celebrate mum's life. Due to our new normal there are few here, but this place is filled with the love of those here and the love of those who are not.

Mum was born Catriona Joanna McColl on 13th October 1941. Born to Margaret in the small west highland village of Taynuilt where she lived for over half her life, where she married and raised her family and which always remained her home. She was largely brought up by her grandmother Katie McColl and although life would not have been easy for her, Mum was loved and was very much part of village life. She remained close with her childhood friends throughout her life, especially Mary and Dolina.

She enjoyed baking, knitting and sewing, was a Sunday School teacher when she was younger and an enthusiastic member of the Taynuilt Amateur Dramatic Society. And she loved to dance, Scottish country dancing in particular. She was part of a dance team that were due to dance for the queen when she visited Oban. Unusually for Oban it rained that day. However, to make up for this mum and her friends were invited to dance at the Argyllshire Gathering. In the days when only men danced at highland games, they were the first females ever to be allowed to do so. Along with her dance partner Rosemary and Jean, another Taynuilt dancer, they set up a children's dance class in the village to pass on their love of dancing.

Mum had a number of jobs over the years. When she left school, she went to work for MacDougall the ironmongers in Oban. Importantly MacDougall's was next door to Colthart's the Grocer, where a handsome, young man called Tommy worked for his uncle. They fell in love and were married in February 1965. Nearly a year later Sheila arrived followed 3 & 1/2 years later by Fiona to complete the family.

We grew up surrounded by love. There may not have been a lot of money, but mum and dad encouraged us to dance and play

instruments. We regularly went on holiday to Butlins in Ayr. One year Mum announcing that if she ever had to move away from Taynuilt then Ayr might not be such a bad place to live. How little she knew. In 1988 when Oban telephone exchange closed, dad transferred to Ayr, where they lived the remainder of their lives together.

By this time mum had become a granny to Joanna, followed by Katie, Andrew, Gavin and Isla. Then great grandchildren Freya, Ruben and Eden-Rose. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and they all have happy memories, especially her lentil soup and lantern traybake which were legendary and must have been on the menu when they visited.

In Ayr Mum made new friends particularly Frances and Aileen, continued to enjoy her country dancing along with trips to the theatre and holidays abroad with dad. Her last trip abroad was to Dresden to meet her pen pal of 60 years, Ute, for the first time.

Mum and dad were each other's worlds. In 2007 a light went out when after 42 years of marriage dad passed away. I don't think she ever got over dad's death.

However, another Tom was about to come into her life.

Mum's father came from Newfoundland to Argyll during the war. Mum never knew but in 2009 she discovered as well as her 3 Scottish brothers James, Iain and Donald and sister Flora she had 6 Canadian brothers, Tom jnr, Reg, Perry, Calvin, Cluney and Floyd and a sister Barbara. There was a real and instant connection and mum visited Newfoundland twice where she was met with warmth and love from all the family.

Over this last year Mum lost a number of those she loved, her childhood friend Mary, sister Flora and brothers Tom & Calvin. We

were all devastated when in July mum was diagnosed with cancer. We think she had known though, accepting her illness and adamant that she didn't want any treatment. She was comforted believing that when she passed she would be with people she loved again and was looking forward to catching up with them.

We love you mum, and miss you more than we can say. Sleep tight.

The family has asked me to conclude the eulogy with the following poem:

You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because she has lived  
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday  
You can remember her and only that she is gone  
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on  
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love  
and go on.

Music: Taigh an Uillt - Taynuilt Gaelic Choir and Joy Dunlop

**Committal:**

Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last says the Lord and I am the living one. I was dead and now I am alive for evermore.

Catriona Joanna Colthart is committed into the hands of God 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

**Music: amazing grace**

## **Intercession and Closing Prayer**

Loving God,

We give you thanks for a life lived to its fulness, for the privilege to have known in Catriona a lady full of love to her family and loyalty to her friends, for a lady whose life was content and happy. We give you thanks for a lady who will be remembered with love and respect and in giving thanks we pray for all who were closest to Catriona.

We hold in prayer for James, Ian and Donald and also for Daniel who knew Catriona the longest grew up with her, who have reason for gratitude and fondness and in this sad hour we honour the memory of Flora, Tom, Calvin, Cluney and Catriona's friend Mary. May you grant them all the peace that only you can give here on this earth and beyond.

We pray for Reg and Cora, Perry, Floyd and Lyn, for Barbara, for Lyn and for their families, who grieve Catriona from afar, who welcomed a sister into their lives and who grieve a life that was

and a life that could have been. Grant them the comfort of your hope, we pray.

We remember in prayer Sheila and Fiona, who have loved and lost a mother, who were loved in return, we pray for Joanna and Fraser, for Katie and Stuart, for Andrew and Hannah, for Gavin and Isla who share their parents' pain and we especially pray for Freya, Ruben and Eden-Rose, who will grow up remembering their great grandmother from stories and pictures

May they all find peace and consolation in you and in each other.

We pray for Dolina, for Christine and Neil and for all Catriona's friends and family, for all who shared a part of life's journey with her and her family, who were important to Catriona's life as she was to theirs. May you dry their tears.

And as we turn from this place to face the world

As we return to our places of work and leisure, we pray for ourselves,

We acknowledge before you that our hearts are sore, and our wounds are raw

Grant us the courage to grieve, grant us the courage to acknowledge our loss

and let us look to you in hope, the hope that you have prepared a place for all of us, so we may find your comfort and your peace.

AMEN

**Benediction**

And now the grace and the peace of our Lord, who so loved the world that he gave his only son for our redemption guard you and guide you as you go from this place. And the almighty God, father son and holy spirit be with us all – (AMEN)

## **A prayer for the home**

Loving God,

You know our hearts, you know our pain, you know how much we long to be with Catriona's friends and family now, how much we long to say good bye to her, a lady who shaped us all in different ways.

We thank you that we had the privilege to have known her, that our lives were richer because she was part of it, however big or small that part was.

We thank you that we were able to accompany Catriona on a part of life's journey and we thank you for the time we can now set apart for her.

Gracious God,

You know our thoughts, you know that as a thousand years are but a day before you, so a thousand miles are just a step, you know that while we must be apart from Catriona and from those close to her, that we cannot offer the comfort of a handshake or a hug, our hearts are with them and our sorrow is sincere.

Grant us all the comfort of your presence, we pray, grant us the assurance of eternal life.

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN

