

# David Brown



## Introduction

As a church we share the pain of loss with David's family and friends and would like to extend our condolences to you all. Our thoughts and prayers are with those closest to David and our hearts go out to those who cannot pay their respect in person. We hope that this written service will bring some comfort to all who grieve for David.

## The Service

### Gathering/ Call

The Lord, our God says: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you". We come to this place in this sad time to take our leave of David Brown, to remember his life with grief and with gratitude and to commend him to God's grace. Not all who would like to be here today can take their leave in person during these difficult times, but we know that they remember David and grieve for him from their home today and we can be assured that God is present in every place.

## Prayer

Gracious God,

You have given your assurance that we may come to you and you will give rest to our troubled souls, that you will lighten our burden and be at our side in times of sorrow. And so, we bring our grief before you as we also remember David with gratitude for all that he was to those who knew and loved him.

We give you thanks for a man who loved life, for a man who loved and was loved in return. May it be a comfort to all that the memories of David's life will be cherished by many.

We give you thanks for your son Jesus Christ who redeemed us so we all may have eternal life, a life without pain, a life without suffering at your right hand. In this time of grief let us all remember that you sent your son so nothing can separate us from your love, let us live in the trust, that David is now at peace with you, as we all will be.

Loving God,

We entrust ourselves to you in this time of grief, when our loss seems too hard to bear, when we feel lost and hurting, when it seems that nothing can comfort us. May we be able to seek and find your loving presence in this time of pain.

And we pray all this through Jesus Christ, the first to have risen from the dead. AMEN

## Reading: Isaiah 40, 28-31

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

## Eulogy

It is a cause for grief and sorrow that we cannot say goodbye to David as we would do in different times, but we will take some time to honour his life and to remember who David was.

Jesus said: "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", (John 14, 27) and so let me share with you my firm belief that David is now at peace with God as we all will be.

David Brown was born on 24 September 1945 in Kilmarnock to David Brown sen., A welder with Massey Ferguson and his wife Janet and grew up with his much-loved sister Ann, an appreciation that he would later extend to his brother in law Eddie. David came from a loving and caring home, a home that was always easy to find as his mum Janet would not change the curtains of their new house, so David would not get lost.

Having grown from a happy child into a man David, a butcher by trade, processed at first meat for Wilson's food factory, until he saw Hannah with her milk cart at the dairy and thought that this kind of work might appeal to him, and since it was Hannah he saw, the work may not have been the only incentive to change his career. Since then David had held many jobs, he drove taxis for Gribbens and was a bus driver, but found his true vocation as technician with the ambulance in Ayr, a job he loved and carried out for over 30 years.

His early attraction to Hannah, however, never waned and although he would pull up all the ladies and dance in the middle of them at Bobby

Jones, it was Hannah, he chose. The couple got married at St James Parish Church, where later their son David was christened and shared their lives for 51 years. David loved a quiet uncomplicated life, but he was ready to share the joys and sorrows of his whole family and so he helped to raise his nephew Steven, whom he regarded as another son, a brother to David and indeed, Steven and his wife Tracy proved to be an invaluable support and comfort to both young David and Hannah in these difficult times.

David was an excellent golfer and - when that became too difficult because of his health - an equally accomplished bowler, both indoors and outdoors. He even won the indoor single championship here in Ayr and was invited to defend that title in Aberdeen, a memory he cherished. With all this David was unselfish and gave his time both to his family and to his community. He volunteered with the "handicapped swimming club", a commitment the whole family shared in one way or another and so looking back it can be said with truth and conviction that David lived a full, happy and rewarding life.

David's health struggles began 19 years ago when he was diagnosed with cancer and intensified two years later. Since then he had not been the same, although he was always brave and strong in suffering and never gave up. When David was admitted to hospital three weeks ago, he would insist on continuing the dialysis that proved necessary until it was absolutely unavoidable to stop.

It may be a comfort that Hannah was allowed to visit David in hospital for a little time, that he was not abandoned there like so many in these troubled

times and it is my sincere hope that you can share my belief that although he

David passed away before his family could reach him for his final hour, he was and is and always will be in the presence of God. AMEN

### **Committal**

Jesus said: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

David Brown 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

## **Prayer**

Loving God,

It was a privilege for all who now mourn for David to have known in him a caring and cheerful man, a man full of life and in giving thanks for the journey we travelled together we commend to you those David loved the most and who cared for him

We pray for Hannah and David, for Steven and Tracy who were closest to David, were his family, who were loved by him and loved him in return, for Jordan, Lewis, Emily and Katie, for Jill, Louise, Steven and Stephanie, who share their parents' pain. May they all find comfort in you and in each other. And we include in our prayer the doctors and nurses at Ayr and Biggart hospitals who give all their commitment to patients like David on the frontline and who will grieve for all they cannot save.

As we now return to our daily lives, as we have committed David's body to God's grace, and prepare to say farewell, whether we can do so in person or have to grieve from the distance of our home, we pray that we may all allow ourselves to acknowledge the pain of loss, that we find the strength to grieve. We pray for the assurance that after a while the tears of loss will turn into smiles and leave us with happy memories.

May you grant us all your love and your peace.

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN

## **Benediction**

And now may God comfort you with the assurance of His love. And the God who is higher than all our understanding, God the father, son and holy spirit be with us all now and forever. 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 David's family now, how much we long to say good bye to a man we loved and respected, a man who shaped us all in different ways.

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

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

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 David and from those he loved, 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