

DOROTHY McLAY



Introduction

At St James we would like to convey our condolences to Dorothy's family and to all who cared for her. We hope that these words bring a little comfort and peace in these difficult times.

Gathering/ Call

The grace and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.
We have gathered here in this sad hour to take our leave of
Dorothy Emily McLay

to remember her life with sadness and with gratitude and to
commend her to God's grace,

We remember Dorothy with sadness because a loved and loving
mother, grandmother and great-grandmother is no longer with us,
we remember her with gratitude for a long and fulfilled life. A life
that we can no longer touch, but that is still, as I firmly believe in
God's good hands, as was promised to us by the apostle Paul when
he said that he will be with us to the end of the world.

2. Prayer

Gracious God,

You have promised to be our rock and our salvation, that your comfort will surround us all the days of our lives, that you will not forsake us in times of grief. And so, we bring our loss and our grief before you in the trust that we are under your care.

And in this trust, we bring to you in gratitude Dorothy's life, all that she was to those who knew and loved her, and we give you thanks for her strong and capable nature, for her hard work and active life, for the love and affection she gave and received. May it be a comfort to all that Dorothy's life was a rich and fulfilled one

We thank you for the happy and loving memories of holidays and cruises, for journeys back home to Orkney; we give you thanks for the memories Dorothy made with her family, memories that will stay with those who knew Dorothy and loved her as a comfort and encouragement in times when grief and loss threaten to become overwhelming. May those memories of love and care be a sign for the unfailing love that you have shown to us.

We give you thanks for your promise that as your son has risen from the dead you will raise us all to eternal life, where weakness and pain give way to joy and comfort, In this sad hour let us all remember that you have sent your son Jesus Christ, so none of us is lost, that we will all be raised to eternal life , let us live in the assurance that Dorothy has now found peace with you, as we all will.

Loving God,

You know that times of grief and loss can be hard to bear for us, especially in these times, when taking our leave is made difficult by circumstance. May we be able to seek and find your comfort in times of pain and may we be assured that you keep us all 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 Dorothy and ourselves to your loving care in this time of sadness and grief.

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

Music: The Old Rugged Cross

Reading OT: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ 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.

Reading NT: John 6, 37-40

Jesus said: ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

5. Eulogy

Let us now take the time to remember Dorothy' life, the love she gave and the love she received, let us honour the happy memories, let us give thanks for a fulfilled and meaningful life and then commend her to God's grace.

Jesus promised that he would lose no one who was entrusted to him by God but take everyone into His presence and I would like to share with you my firm hope and belief that Dorothy is now taken into God's care as he himself has promised.

And yet, it is hard for all who loved Dorothy, shared her life 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 time to share the memories of who Dorothy was.

Dorothy Emily McLay was born on 7 October 1927 on the Isles of Orkney as the only daughter of Margaret and Gordon Odd, who worked a farming croft there and this is where Dorothy went to school as well as helping on her parents' farm. Like so many young girls Dorothy went into service at one of Orkney's big houses just along the road from her native farm and from there she went to work at the Standing Stones hotel in Stromness, which exists to this day. Dorothy was nothing if not hard working and

capable and so it is not surprising that she became head waitress and all her children learned how to lay a table and which knives and forks to use.

During the war she met her husband Alexander who was stationed on Orkney and the song Lonely Scapa Flow was chosen today because this landscape was meaningful to both of them. In 1946 Alexander and Dorothy got married and from that point on at the latest the couple lived for each other and their large family of three girls, Laurine, Margaret and Lynn and two boys, Alistair and Michael may be a proof of this. While the older children were born on the farm, all children spent their childhood in Stromness and Dorothy brought each of them up well. In 1963 the family moved to Ayrshire where Dorothy and Alexander took over a small bakery in West Kilbride. It must have been more than a business to the family, as it motivated Alistair to learn the trade and step into his parents' footsteps. When the family moved to Ayr, Dorothy showed her capable energy once again at the Wimpy Bar, where she soon took charge and where she worked until she became seriously ill. After a long recovery Dorothy did what she did best by working in the family's own coffee shops and she continued this until she retired.

Work, though was not the only and maybe not the most important aspect of Dorothy's life. Her family meant a lot to Dorothy, and

she loved and cared for all her grandchildren and knew all her great grandchildren, except the youngest. With husband Alexander and sometimes with the children, too she travelled the world, as well as going regularly home to Orkney. Dorothy saw much of England as well as continental Europe and New Zealand. A holiday highlight was a Mediterranean cruise with son Alistair. But Dorothy also loved her home and enjoyed the quieter moments of life, such as pottering in her garden or listening to Country and Western Music and of course the companionship with Alexander, whose passing after suffering a stroke she took hard, especially as she lost son Michael, too a few years ago.

Dorothy lived in her beloved home until her health deteriorated and she moved to Ainslie Manor Nursing Home, her last residence. It is painful that due to the Covid pandemic the family could only say good bye through the window panes, could only wave instead of holding her hand when they were called on the evening of the 8th February and before, and Tracy's and Carol's support, love and friendship as well as that from many others were much needed and appreciated during these difficult times, giving comfort and strength. It is my sincere hope that the family's pain is lessened by the comfort that Dorothy – as I firmly believe – was not alone in her last hours, that God was by her side when she passed away the following day, and that she is now in a place where pain and frailty

can no longer reach her, that she is in God's presence as we all will be one day. AMEN

6. Intercession

Loving God,

We give you thanks for a long and fulfilled life, for a lady who loved and was loved, a lady who left a mark in the life of those around her and will not be forgotten and in offering our thanks we bring before you those who were closest to Dorothy.

We pray for Laurine and Mike, for Margaret, for Alistair and Nan, for Lynn and Jim, for Linda, who knew Dorothy best, who have the greatest reason to be grateful to her for what she has done for them since childhood, for welcoming them into the family as her children's spouses, and for the care she extended not only to them but also to their children.

Let them find the courage to grieve and the space to reflect on all that was and then grant to them the peace that is not of this world.

And in this sad hour we honour the memory of all, who were connected to Dorothy and to those who loved her, and we remember Michael, Jim and Billy. May you grant them peace.

We hold in prayer Catriona and Gareth, Tracy, Kirsty and Stephanie, Colin, Scott Stuart and Emma, who share their parents' pain, who lost a proud grandmother in Dorothy and who will feel her loss keenly, a loss that cannot be replaced. We pray for Jenny, for Mark, Gerald and Craig, for Debbie, Sharon and John who bear the burden together with their partners, for Carol and for the children who will remember Dorothy in pictures and in stories. May they all find comfort in you and in the support of those who love them.

We pray for the staff of Ainslie Manor who give their best to care for residents like Dorothy and who will feel the helplessness and sadness when they have to say good-bye.

Let them keep their commitment and resilience in their work so they may be able to continue serving our community.

For all this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN

Music: How great thou art

10. closing prayer

Loving God,

As we turn now from this place to accompany Dorothy to her final resting place, as we face a life that is changed because Dorothy, a

loved and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, a lady we cared for and were close to is no longer here, is beyond our reach, we pray that our troubled hearts may find rest,

We ask that we find the courage to grieve and the strength to let go,

And that in time the tears of loss will turn into smiles of happy memories.

We ask that we can find comfort in you and in each other,

That we will find the peace you have promised to us and to everyone.

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN

11. Benediction

And now go forth in peace and be comforted in the assurance of God's 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

At the Cemetery

Introduction

Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life, whoever has faith in me shall live, even though they die, and no one who lives and has faith in me shall ever die

Prayer

Loving God,

We have come to this place with a heavy heart, here our farewell to Dorothy becomes real and we know, that we can no longer reach her, touch her or tell her of our love, we know that here our journey together ends and that we must face a life without Dorothy, and we pray that we may find comfort.

Gracious Lord,

You have promised that you will take Dorothy to yourself, that she is with you and with your son Jesus Christ who has prepared a place for her as he as prepared a place for us all and we pray that we may find hope in this

Loving Father,

You have sent your son Jesus Christ into the world, so we are redeemed and saved, you have sent your son, so nobody is alone

in their last days, so we know that you are with us. You have sent your son so he walks with us and shares our burden, all our lives and we pray that we might find strength in this.

For this we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

Scripture Reading

Psalm 116, 1-9

- ¹ I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
- ² Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³ The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"LORD, save me!"
- ⁵ The LORD is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- ⁶ The LORD protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- ⁷ Return to your rest, my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.
- ⁸ For you, LORD, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
- ⁹ that I may walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

9. Committal

Blessed are those who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labour and their works will follow them.

Dorothy Emily McLay 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.

Prayer

Loving God

As we turn from this place, as we go back to our lives of work and rest, we realize with pain that our lives have changed, because a lady we loved is not longer with us, is beyond our reach and so we pray that you may give us the courage to grieve, to acknowledge our sorrow, to take the time to remember

We pray that when the time is right, we may find the strength to let go and that tears of grief will in time turn into smiles of happy and grateful memories

We pray for the comfort of your promise, that Dorothy is now with you where weakness and sorrow can no longer touch her and for the peace that is not of this world, the peace that only you can give.

In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN

Benediction.

And the God who gives us his peace, God the father, son and holy spirit, be with us all now and forever. AMEN

