

# Jean Edmondston



## **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 Jean Muir Edmondston, to remember her life with sadness and with gratitude and to commend her to God's grace.

We remember Jean with sadness because a loved and loving sister, mother, grandmother and friend is no longer with us, we remember her with gratitude for a content and happy 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 when Jesus said that he will be with us to the end of time.

## **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 same trust we bring to you in gratitude Jean's life, all that she was to those who knew and loved her, and we give you thanks for her kind and caring nature, for her generosity, for the love and affection she gave and received. May it be a comfort to all that Jean's life was a rich and fulfilled one

We thank you for a sharp and quick mind, for a lady who found it easy to learn and who achieved much during her life, for a lady who had a fun and witty sense of humour that delighted those around her. May this delight turn into memories full of smiles.

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 imperishable , let us live in the assurance that Jean has now found an eternal place with you, as we all will.

Loving God,

You know that times of grief and loss can be overwhelming for us, that we need a space for our sadness. May we be able to seek and find your comfort in times of pain and may we be assured that you keep us 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. And so, we entrust Jean and ourselves to your loving care.

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

### **3. Music: Dear Lord and Father of mankind**

## Readings

### Reading OT: Psalm 95, 1-7

- <sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- <sup>2</sup> Let us come before him with thanksgiving.
- <sup>3</sup> For the LORD is the great God,  
the great King above all gods.
- <sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth,  
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
- <sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.
- <sup>6</sup> Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
- <sup>7</sup> for he is our God  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
the flock under his care

### Reading NT: Corinthians 15,51-55

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”<sup>[h]</sup>

<sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

## **5. Eulogy**

Let us now take the time to remember Jean's 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.

The apostle Paul gives us hope that we will live on and that death itself is defeated through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and I would like to share with you my firm hope and belief that Jean is now taken into God's care, who will raise her up to new life as he has promised through his apostle.

And yet, it is hard for all who loved Jean, 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 Jean was.

Jean Muir Edmondston was born on 31 January 1939 in Glasgow to Andrew Fergusson, an insurance manager and his wife Alison as the oldest of two girls and although there was a considerable age gap of seven years between Jean and her sister Ann, a post war baby, the two girls were very close throughout their lives. This continued into adulthood when the sisters were separated geographically, and Ann looked forward to Jean's affectionate letters full of wit and humour.

Jean was born and spent her younger years in Glasgow and went to school in Hillhead until the family moved to Elderslie and from there to Prestwick, where she attended Prestwick Grammar School. Jean was a bright girl and maths and science were her forte, but she was also a gifted artist.

Jean's work life was varied and interesting. She started out in the Ministry of Labour in Ayr but had the opportunity to work as a lab assistant at the Hannah Dairy Research Centre. Jean was a teacher in both primary and secondary schools and later she changed to special needs education, but what she maintained wherever she went is her ability to impress children and colleagues through her knowledge, her liveliness and her sense of humour.

When Jean married her first husband Bill in 1960, she moved down South to Dovercourt, Harwich and a year later daughter Moira was born. Jean knew tragedy in her life, as Bill passed away in 1962 and the young widow and mother decided to move back to Scotland – home. But this tragedy, a devastating experience for the young woman, also brought her resilience, her spirit and her fortitude to the fore: she studied maths at the Open University and achieved a degree. Eventually she found love again in her second husband John whom she met in 1969 at the photographic club in Ayr; the couple was married in Prestwick and had a son, David. The children were brought up in the church and church and charity

were both important to Jean, too. She sponsored a child in Africa, supported the Red Cross and WaterAid and made a difference by volunteering at the Biggart hospital, proof, if more proof was needed, of her caring and generous nature. It was Jean's family, however, she cared about most, though and her grandchildren were her delight.

Jean's hobbies and private pursuits were as interesting and varied as her professional life. She loved nature and while she holidayed both in the UK and abroad her favourite places were the Lake District and Arran. Jean had a keen eye for photography and so of course she was a member of the Photography Club in Ayr, but that was not all: Her active participation in the Archaeological Society, in the Civic Society and the Burns Club show her intelligence and her lively and varied interest in what was going on around her, having acquired IT skills at Ayr college, Jean's PowerPoint presentation on local history and geography, illustrated by her own beautiful photographs is a source of pride in her family. With the civic society she visited interesting places on holidays and outings, and she took an active interest in her nephew Neil's research work, an interest they bonded over. In her quieter hours Jean loved to do the puzzles and codebreakers of the Herald and did so daily. For the last 10 years she took up the offers of the OiR, where she made

many friends and pursued old and new interests such as photography and folk groups.

To the last Jean maintained her kindness and her caring nature, as well as her sense of humour. Her main concern to the very last was her daughter Moira while she jokingly warned David off the pub. Jean remained positive and cheerful and put everyone at ease in the hospice as she had always done and so it may be a comfort to all who cared for Jean that her end was peaceful and that she was prepared. And it is my sincere hope that it is a comfort to many that she is now in God's care as we all will be. AMEN

**Music: the day thou gavest, Lord, has ended**

### **Intercession**

Let us pray,  
Loving God,

We give you thanks for an active and fulfilled life, for a lady who loved and was loved, a lady who left a mark in the life of those around her through kindness, care and generosity and will not be forgotten and in offering our thanks we bring before you those who were closest to Jean.

We pray for Jean's sister Ann and her family, for Neil and Claire who knew Jean the longest, grew up with her, shared much of her life with her and was close to her from the beginning to the end. May they find the strength to grieve and when the time is right the courage to let go

We pray for Moira and Robert and for David and Bettina, who have the greatest reason to be grateful to Jean, for what she has done for them since childhood or for welcoming a son and daughter in law into the family, for the care she extended not only to them but also to their children.

Grant to them the peace that is not of this world.

We hold in prayer Kimberley, Alastair and Jaqueline and we also pray for Robin, who share their parents' pain, who lost a proud grandmother in Jean and who will feel her loss keenly, a loss that cannot be replaced.

May they all find comfort in you and in the support of those who love them.

We pray for the staff of the Ayr Hospice, who give their best to care for patients like Jean and who will feel the helplessness and sadness when there is a life they cannot save. Let them keep their commitment and resilience in their work so they may be able to continue serving our community.

In these difficult and challenging times, we pray for ourselves as we leave this place knowing that our lives have changed because a lady we knew and loved is now beyond our reach. Grant us time to grieve and the time to cherish the happy memories we have. Grant us the assurance that she is now in your loving care.

For all this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN

**Intimation:** Before we go from this place to gather in Dunure cemetery I would like to thank you all on behalf of the family for the support you have shown in coming here today. The family have asked me to intimate that there will be a gathering in Jean's name when circumstances allow this.

## **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

**PART 2**

The apostle Paul says: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We have come to this place to commit our sister Jean Muir Edmondston into the hands of God.

Let us pray

O God, Creator and Redeemer

Of all Your people.

We give our lives into your hands, we come from you and we go to you.

Grant Your mercy, light and peace to us and to those who have gone before us.

So that we may be assured of your forgiving grace, so that we may be comforted by the blessings of everlasting life for Jean and for ourselves.

So that we may be able to entrust Jean to you in the sure hope that she is with you, in your loving care

In Jesus name Amen

## John 6, 37-40

<sup>37</sup>All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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."

## **9. Committal**

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

Jean Muir Edmonston 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.

### **closing prayer**

Loving God,

As we turn now from this place into the world,

As we return to our daily lives of work and rest,

As we return to a life that is changed because Jean, a loved mother and 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

### **Benediction**

And now go forth in peace

And the God of eternal love,

God the father, son and holy spirit, be with us all now and forever.

AMEN