

## **William Clelland**



### **At the Gravesite**

#### **Call to Prayer**

Blessed are those who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours and their deeds will follow them. We come to this place in this sad time to take our leave of William Clelland, to remember his life with grief and with gratitude and to commend him to God's grace. Some of us will remember William from afar during these troubling times, but we know that they think of William at this moment in their own special way and we can be assured that God is with us all, wherever we are.

## **Prayer**

Gracious God,

You have promised that you will be with us all the days of our lives, that you will not let our foot stumble and guard us against all harm, that you will walk with us in the days of joy as well as in times of grief. Trusting in your promise and in bringing our loss before you we also remember the life of William with gratitude for all that he was to those who knew and loved him, for all that he was for those whose lives he touched. We give you thanks for his gentlemanly and well-mannered ways, for his hard work, for his care for friends and family. May it be a comfort to all that William's life will be remembered by many with gratitude

We give you thanks for cherished memories of a life spent well, for a family man who is remembered with pride, we give you thanks for a man who worked his way up, for his intelligence and determination, for a life lived well.

We give you thanks for your son Jesus Christ, the first to have risen from the dead, who has come to earth so we all are raised to eternal life, a life without pain, a life without suffering at your side. In this difficult time let us all remember that you have sent your

son Jesus Christ, so none of us is lost, so nothing can part us from your loving presence, let us live in the trust, that William is now with you, never to be separated from your love again, as we all will be.

Loving God,

You know that in these times of grief and loss we feel most helpless and most vulnerable, that we have to make decisions that pain us, cannot do all we want to do for William, that we seek comfort and do not know where to find it. May we be able to seek and find your loving presence in times of pain and may we be assured that you keep us all in your caring arms, whatever befalls us.

Loving God, we know that you have loved us before we knew you and that your son has given his life to save ours and to bring us close to you. We entrust our brother William and ourselves to you in this time of loss and grief and we commend in particular Elizabeth and Steven and also Diane, who cannot be with us to your comforting love and grace.

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

## Readings

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.

John 6, 37 ff

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."

## **Committal**

God is our refuge and our stronghold, a timely help in all our troubles

William is committed to God's grace 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 now close this ceremony, as we have committed William's body to God,

and prepare to say farewell, prepare to take up our daily lives of work and rest

We recognise that our life has changed, changed because a loved and loving man, a man who was important to all who remember him now, is beyond our reach, has gone before us

And we pray that we may be able to bear this loss,

that we find the strength to acknowledge our sadness and our grief, that we may find the strength to grieve and to let go,

We pray for the trust that time will heal our pain and leave us the memories we cherish.

We ask that we find ways to support each other and to trust in you and that in time we will find the peace that the world cannot give. 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

## 5. Eulogy

The prophet Isaiah promises that God gives strength to the weary, that they will walk and not grow faint and He gives the firm assurance that through Jesus Christ there is a place prepared for all of us in His presence, so all can live in the certain hope that nothing, neither pain nor hardship will separate William, will separate us from God.

And yet, it is hard for all who cared for William, whose lives he touched, that he is now beyond the reach of touch and smile and so I would like to invite everyone to take the opportunity to acknowledge the sorrow and grief for a person who was important to all who share in this act of memorial, where ever they may be, who remember now who William was.

William Clelland was born in Lanark on 24 March 1933 as the only child to Andrew Clelland, a railway porter and his wife Janet. While most children left school for work at the age of 14, William was encouraged by his parents to stay on, and their – not least financial – sacrifice paid off, with this clever lad, who went on to be apprenticed while studying at night school to be a chartered accountant. William's childhood was a happy one, although money was scarce and although it must have had its disappointments, for instance when everybody clubbed together to buy William an electric train set, which could not take up service because there was no electricity.

William met his future wife Betty at the dancing in Lanark and as she lived in a village outside the town and had to catch the last bus, more often than not the bicycle was the only means for William to see her – no wonder then, that Betty refused to live in the country when they began planning their lives together. As soon as William passed his exams he got married and was stationed in Germany soon after. Luckily, he was an excellent football player – a skill he

would later pass on to grandson Steven at their “training sessions” in Newton Park - and so he got one day a week off to join the team. William was blessed with two daughters Elizabeth and Janice, and was by all accounts a good Dad to them, but he also knew profound and devastating tragedy, when Janice, who had a promising nursing career in front of her, had an instantly fatal accident when she was out walking her dog on one of her study days. William never fully recovered from this heart break, especially as an inquiry into the cause of the accident was not concluded in a way that would ease the family’s pain.

William’s work life was a successful one and he put his training as a chartered accountant to good use, by opening three offices, one in Wishaw, where the family used to live, one each in Glasgow and in Edinburgh. A well-mannered and well-dressed gentleman on all occasions, his expertise was appreciated in a far wider circle than just his family and he used his knowledge for example to help Diane build up her own business as a pharmacist, a helpfulness that resulted in a long-standing friendship. He was at his happiest though, when he worked for the Princes Trust, helping young people to find employment, a job that once took him to Buckingham Palace to meet Prince Charles. Of course, his work meant that William was often out, especially in the early days when he built up his business, but that did not mean that he was neglecting his family and Elizabeth has many happy memories of him. He was patient with his wife Betty during her illness and his daughter and grandson could always rely on his help, especially when there was something to be done or fixed in the house.

William could relax, too, both in the house, where his music tapes and cassettes were his escape, and in the countryside, near Stranraer, where the family owned a caravan.

William was not well, when he eventually had to move to Glenfairn nursing home and the last six months in particular saw a



marked decline, which was painful to see, especially as he was such an active, bright and successful man. In the last weeks he battled quite a few infections and like so many these days he is suspected to have lost the battle against the new treacherous virus Covid-19. It is hard to accept that he had to die under lockdown, that heart breaking decisions had to be made so isolation rules are obeyed and everyone is kept a little safer. And so, it is my sincere hope that it may be a comfort, that William did not die alone, but in the presence of God and that he is now with Him, in a place, where pain and suffering give way to joy and peace. AMEN