

St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields

A Funeral Service in Thanksgiving for  
the Life of

**Lavinia Maude Anson**

12 October 1926 - 10 August 2023



Wednesday 6 September 2023  
2.30pm

Organ music before the service *Carillon de Westminster Vienne*

Introit I know that my redeemer lives *Jeffrey-Gray*

## The Gathering

*Please stand as the coffin is brought into the church, during which the following sentences of scripture are read.*

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

*John 11.25, 26*

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8.38, 39*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

*Lamentations 3.22, 23*

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

*John 3.16*

All shall be Amen and Alleluia  
We shall rest and we shall see  
We shall see and we shall know,  
We shall know and we shall love,  
We shall love and we shall praise.  
Behold our end which is no end.

*St Augustine of Hippo*

## Welcome and Introduction

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father. Grace and mercy be with you.

We have come here today to remember before God beloved Lavinia; to give thanks for her life; to commend her to God our most merciful Father and redeemer; and to comfort one another in our grief.

*All* **Almighty God, you care for us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything you have made. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven; through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Hymn

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
*bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore.***
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
*strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.***
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
*songs and praises  
I will ever give to thee.***

*Arghwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch  
William Williams (1717-1791), tr. Peter Williams (1727-1796)*

*Please sit or kneel*

## Prayers of Penitence

As children of a loving heavenly Father, let us ask his forgiveness, for he is gentle and full of compassion.

For the times we have failed in our love for God:

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

For the times we have failed to love our neighbour as ourselves:

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

For the times we have fallen short of God's glory:

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the eternal joy of the kingdom, where we are united with those we love and death has no dominion.

*All* **Amen.**

## Collect

Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

Yes says the Spirit for they rest from their work.

God of the spirits of all people give freely to Lavinia,  
who rests in Jesus, the many blessings of your love,  
that the good work you have begun with her here on earth  
may now be completed in heaven.

Kind Father in heaven, may we, who remember Lavinia now on earth,  
one day be found fit to share with her the life of the saints in light,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit*

Reading John 11: 25-27 *read by Stuart Crocker*

Jesus said unto Martha, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Reading Psalm 23 *read by Diana Magnay*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Choir The Lord bless you and keep you *John Rutter*

Reading Revelation 21: 1-4 *read by Richard Anson*

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.  
And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.  
And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Address *Revd Richard Carter*

Choir Song for Athene Tavener

*Please remain seated or kneel*

Prayers *led by Anna Gregorowski*

*The response to the prayers is:*

Lord in your mercy,

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*At the end:*

*All* **God of mercy,  
entrusting into your hands all that you have made  
and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people,  
we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**



## Commendation and Farewell

*Revd Dr Sam Wells stands by the coffin.*

Father we commend to your care our sister Lavinia, giving thanks for all she brought us. Though now taken from us, let her not be parted from you. May your servant, set free from the bondage of earth, be changed into your likeness, from glory to glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Go forth upon your journey from this world, dear child of God, into the hands of the Father who made you, to find life in Christ who redeemed you, to rejoice in the Spirit who renews you. May the heavenly host sustain you and the company of the redeemed enfold you; may peace be yours this day, and the heavenly city your home.

*All* **Amen.**

Blessing Anthem   Nunc Dimittis   *Burton*

Final Prayers and Blessing   *Revd Dr Sam Wells*

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening, into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion world without end.

*All* **Amen.**

*John Donne (1572-1631)*

May God give you  
comfort and peace,  
light and joy,  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please stand*

## Final Hymn

- 1** **Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.  
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:  
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.***
- 2** **Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.  
*Refrain***
- 3** **No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.  
*Refrain***

*A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité*

*Edmond Budry (1854-1932), tr. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)*

Organ Voluntary    Now thank we all our God    *Karg-Elert*



A retiring collection will be taken for the work of  
St Martin-in-the-Fields

There will be a reception after the service at Ochre Restaurant,  
part of the National Gallery,  
entrance on Charing Cross Road opposite St Martin's





*She arranged church flowers  
for 20 years*



### *Trekking to Everest Base Camp*

Service conducted by Revd Dr Sam Wells  
St Martin's Voices  
Directed by Andrew Earis

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