

JONATHAN LUKE BRYAN

27th January 2006 - 5th June 2025



**FRIDAY 4TH JULY 2025
AT 11.30 AM
ST PAUL'S CHURCH, CHIPPENHAM**

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Andante (Adagio) from Organ Sonata No. 4, BWV 528
transcribed by August Stradal

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

Farewell To Stromness

ON THE ENTRY OF THE COFFIN

We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out.
The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the
name of the Lord.

1 Timothy, Chapter 6: verse 7; Job, Chapter 1: verse 21b

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through
Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with
the Lord for ever. Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians, Chapter 4: verses 14, 17b and 18

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, Chapter 3: verse 16

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 our brother Jonathan;
to give thanks for his life;
to commend him to God our merciful redeemer and judge;
to commit his body to be buried,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

Almighty God,
you judge 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.

All: Amen.

Almost everything in this service has been chosen by me – Jonathan.

*All through my life I have been blessed with family and friends who have carried me, both literally and metaphorically, to Jesus. Thank you to all of you who have stuck with me as friends even when it has been inconvenient or not cool! This story is my favourite as it reveals the tenacity and faith of the friends. The paralysed man then hears Jesus utter the words we all need, disability or no disability:
“Your sins are forgiven.”*

READING

from Luke, Chapter 5: verses 17-26
read by Jemima Bryan

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal those who were ill. Some men came carrying a paralysed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralysed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

This hymn perfectly encapsulates for me what Jesus has meant in my life. In all the trials, through the illnesses and in the midst of the many good times he has been with me – forgiving me, sustaining me, loving me. So I choose this hymn as a testimony to all Jesus is to me and as my prayer for you.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

JONATHAN'S TESTIMONY

Traditionally someone would now do a tribute and tell you about my life, but I have written a book and a blog about my life events so I want to take this opportunity to tell you my testimony. For whilst I am very grateful for all the opportunities I was given, none of these things ultimately matter; we bring nothing with us into the world and we take nothing with us when we leave the world. For the greatest thing in this life is not something that can be touched or bought or awarded. The most wonderful thing in the whole world is love. To love, to be loved and to know Love himself.

For God created the world in love and made us out of love to be in a loving relationship with him and each other. And when we turned away from making that a priority, out of love for us he sent his own beloved Son to bring us back. Back into a relationship with him, back into a place where we can enjoy his love.

All my life I have known and felt God's love through a relationship with Jesus. During the dark times of illness his loving arms have sustained me, under the shadow of his wing I have sheltered in the fiercest of storms as his peace has imbued my spirit and set me free from the vice of fear. Love has held me, Love has led me, Love has freed me.

If I leave anything behind, my prayer is that through the love I have for each of you, you will come to know Love himself. His love will never leave you or forsake you, and will enable you to love and be loved.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

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

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May God our Father forgive us our sins
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom,
where dust and ashes have no dominion.

All: Amen.

THE COLLECT

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

As you know, my body has been the most cracked and broken jar of clay, and I am looking forward to being housed in a new body which works completely. When we offer the cracked and broken parts of our lives it is amazing how God can use them to demonstrate his transforming life, love and power.

A READING

from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 4: verses 7-15
read by Ian Fellows

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Ever since I've been small, my mother has sung this psalm over me and my sisters, and we all love the imagery of the shepherd tending his flock. On our walks together I have often given thanks for the way he leads us in fresh pastures.

The Lord's My Shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

This passage is my favourite story on death in the New Testament because it so brilliantly captures the many facets of Christian death and bereavement. So far what I have shared has been about my walk with Jesus, but I have not travelled this earthly journey alone. And this story has two sisters at its heart. There is faith - faith in Jesus and the resurrection, but there is also the deep grief of bereavement. Grief that Jesus joins the sisters in.

A READING

from John, Chapter 11: verses 17-35
read by Sarah Giles

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.
Jesus wept.

HOMILY

PRAYERS

Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them,
and the peace in which they rest.

We praise you today for your servant Jonathan
and for all that you did through him.

Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.
Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Heavenly father,
whose own Son stood at the grave and wept,
look in mercy on all who mourn.
Give them patient faith in times of darkness,
strengthen them with the knowledge of your love,
and guide them in your ways of truth everlasting.

We praise you that
your mighty power brings joy out of grief
and life out of death.
Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth,
giver of life, and conqueror of death.
Jesus Christ your Son died for our sin on the cross,
breaking the power of evil
and putting death to flight.
Rising again he gives eternal life
to all who believe in him,
give us the wisdom and grace to use
the time that is left to us here on earth
to turn to Christ and follow in his steps
in the way that leads to everlasting life.
Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

**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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Amen.

COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

Let us commend Jonathan to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
as you bring us face to face with our mortality,
we thank you for making each one of us in your own image
and giving us gifts in body, mind and spirit.
We thank you now as we honour the memory of Jonathan,
whom you gave to us and have taken away.

We entrust him to your mercy,
and pray that you will show us the path of life,
and the fullness of joy in your presence
through all eternity.

All: Amen.

*This is where our journey together here on earth ends. But whenever
you praise God, you join the heavens in fulfilling the purpose for which
you were created. So the veil between us will be thin.*

10,000 Reasons

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul, worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.*

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing,
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near and my time has come,
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years and then for evermore.

BLESSING

God will show us the path of life;
in his presence is the fullness of joy
and at his right hand
there is pleasure for evermore.

May God give you
his comfort and his peace,
his light and his 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.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ, Amen.

MUSIC AT THE END

Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*
Handel

Jonathan's immediate family will now leave the church to go to the burial. We would love to see you afterwards in the church hall for a buffet lunch.

We are so grateful to you all for your prayers, support and kindness throughout Jonathan's life. In particular today we would like to thank:
St Paul's Church, Chippenham, for welcoming us and enabling the service;
Bishop Neil Warwick for leading and preaching;
Alaric Childerhouse for being Jonathan's voice;
Robert Greenish for playing the organ;
Joel Sales and Pattern Church for leading the worship music.

If you wish to make a donation to
Teach Us Too
in Jonathan's memory, please use the QR code below:



