

St Martin's Church Osmaston

A Celebration of Age

Welcome and Introduction

Call to worship

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40.29-31

Hymn

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given, the Son,
and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.
M. Rinkart 1586-1649

Act of Thanksgiving

At Christian baptism a candle is presented with the words,

'Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.'

The candle represents God's grace given that life may be lived to serve the world's healing rather than the world's hurt.

As we give thanks for the good that many older people contribute to family and society, representative individuals will light a candle. There will then be a bidding and response :

Leader Holy God

All We give you thanks and praise.

A parish councillor

We give thanks for the contribution to good governance made by mature and older people, especially those who work unpaid to ensure the good order of local amenities and services.

Leader Holy God

All We give you thanks and praise

A representative of the Royal British Legion

We give thanks for all who in their youth served this country in the armed services, and who now, by promoting the annual Poppy appeal work for the well-being of their service comrades of this generation.

Leader Holy God

All We give you thanks and praise

A school Governor

We give thanks for our local schools and the people of all ages that work together to promote excellence and to maintain the Christian ethos.

In today's changing world, we give special thanks for the wisdom, experience, and support that older people contribute for the benefit of schools and their pupils.

Leader Holy God

All We give you thanks and praise

A Churchwarden

We give thanks for our parishes churches and the commitment of many older people to ensuring that they remain attractive and welcoming places where people of all ages may find God and refreshment amongst his people.

Leader Holy God

All We give you thanks and praise

A representative of the Women's Institute

We give thanks for the Women's Institute and the contribution of older people in this and other similar organizations that encourage friendship, broad learning, and generous service.

Leader Holy God

All We give you thanks and praise

Someone professionally involved with care of older people

We give thanks that older people are not simply recipients of care but are often very effective carers to those less physically able than themselves, both within families and within the wider community.

Leader Holy God

All We give you thanks and praise

A grandparent

We give thanks for the supportive role many grandparents play in family life, and the wholesome example they often provide of faithful marriage and right living in this age of moral uncertainty.

Leader Holy God

All We give you thanks and praise

Hymn

For the fruits of his creation,
thanks be to God;
for his gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;

in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of his Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

F. Pratt Green 1903-

Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Hymn

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever,

Reading: Luke 2:25-38

Address

Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther 1901-1953

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people;
that each in their vocation and ministry
may serve you in holiness and truth:
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory Hymn

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross, and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

The Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen

*You are warmly invited to stay in church for sherry and shortbread
Thanks to everyone who has participated in this service and those who have provided the
refreshments*