

What is Life?

Life is a sojourn here on earth
Which begins the day God gives us birth,
We enter this world from the great unknown
And God gives each spirit a form of its own.
And endows this form with a heart and a soul
To spur man on to his ultimate goal.
And through the senses of feeling and seeing,
God makes man into a human being,
So he may experience a mortal life
And through this period of smiles and strife
Prepare himself to return as he came.
For birth and death are in essence the same,
For both are fashioned by God's mighty hand.
And while we cannot understand,
We know we are born to die and arise.
For beyond this world in beauty lies
The purpose of living and the ultimate goal
God gives at birth to each seeking soul.
So enjoy your sojourn on earth and be glad
That God gives you a choice between good things and bad,
And only be sure that you heed God's voice
Whenever life asks you to make a choice.



Sylvia Dawn Gudsell

9th February 1937 – 14th April 2024

Funeral Service
11:00pm Monday 22nd April 2024

Welcome

We have come together to remember before God the life of Sylvia Dawn Gudsell, to commend her to God's keeping, to commit her body to be cremated, and to comfort those who mourn with our sympathy and with our love; in the hope we share through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sentences

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me."
John 14:6

"Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day."
John 6:40

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."
John 11:25

Therefore, although we have been parted from Sylvia none of us need ever be separated from the love of God.

Prayer

God our comforter,
you are a refuge and a strength to us,
a helper close at hand in times of distress.
Help us so to hear the words of our faith
that our fear is dispelled,
our loneliness eased
and our hope reawakened.
**May your Holy Spirit lift us
above our natural sorrow,
to the peace and light of your constant love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Tribute

Gordon Yorke

Since the earthly life of Sylvia has come to an end, we commit her body to be turned to ashes; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
which thou has prepared before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.**

Concluding Prayers

Support us, O Lord, all the day long of this troubled life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Notices

Thank you for your presence here today - you are warmly invited to stay for refreshments afterwards in the Church hall.

There is a Memorial book in the foyer and Sylvia's whānau would appreciate your comments and memories of Sylvia.

Recessional

"Amazing Grace"

Played by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Band

Hymn

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the veil of tears,
then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,
who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.
Be still, my soul; thy Jesus can repay
from His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

By: Kathrina von Schlegel
Translated: Jane Borthwick

The Commendation and Committal

St Paul assures us, "There is nothing in death or life, in the world as it is, or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation, that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord."

The Apostle Peter wrote, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose great mercy we have been born anew into a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Gracious God, by your mighty power you gave us life, and in your love you have given us new life in Christ. We now entrust Sylvia Dawn to your keeping, in the faith of Jesus Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. **Amen.**

Poem

"My Last Farewell" read by Lisa Yorke

I never tried to be great or grand;
I tried to be a helping hand;
If I helped in a team, if I helped on my own;
I was more than repaid, by the friends I have known.

Now sadly I leave you, but please don't despair,
Through the mystic veil I travel, God and my loved ones welcome me there.
With such beautiful memories, that forever will be
The way that, I hope, you'll remember me.

Waiata Tautoko

Whānau

Further Memories

Hymn

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made:
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Whakaaria mai	Show
Tou ripeka ki au.	your cross to me.
Tiaho mai	Shine
Ra roto i te po	through the darkness.
Hei kona au	There
Titiro atu ai.	I will look.
Ora, mate	In life, in death
Hei au koe noho ai.	let me rest in thee.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim: my God how great thou art.

*English words © 1949 Stuart Hine
Maori words © Wiremu Te Tau Huata*

Photo Tribute

Music: "Islands in the Stream"

Prayers of Thanksgiving

In a time of silence, let us make our personal thanksgiving to God for all that Sylvia has meant to us.

God our Father, we thank you that you have made each of us in your own image, and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you. We thank you for Sylvia, the years we shared with her, the good we saw in her, the love we received from her. Now give us strength and courage, to leave her in your care, confident in your promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything you have made.

We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace to all who love you. 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 who died, who rose again, and lives for evermore.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

With faith and hope we pray:

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**



Bible Reading

Psalm 100 - Emma Gudsell
John 6:35-40

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray that God will grant comfort and strength to all who mourn.

Living God,
we rejoice in your promises of blessing to those who die in the Lord;
so strengthen our understanding of the light and peace which they now enjoy
in Christ, that we may find consolation in our sorrow.

Draw near to all who mourn today – especially Paul, Lisa & Gordon, Richard & Priscilla and Emma; Sarah, Trent, Bernadette, Marara, Joshua and Rihari; Tristan, Sophie-Rose and Cole, Nirvana and Kyro.

Make your love known to them that they may turn to you and receive comfort and strength. Help them to put their trust in you, and their hope in your grace and compassion.

Use us, Father, as bearers of your love to support them in their grief; this we ask through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for a growing faith in Jesus Christ.

**God, the strength of all who believe in you,
increase our faith and trust in your Son,
that we may live victoriously
now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us pray for that hope which only God can give.

**Almighty God, give us such a vision of your purpose,
and such an assurance of your love and power,
that we may ever hold fast the hope
which is in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Father, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, who by his death has destroyed the power of death, and by his glorious resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Grant us to know that because Christ lives, we shall live also, and that neither death nor life shall be able to separate us from your love.
Amen.