

St Stephen's Church Whangaparaoa Peninsula



Erebus Memorial Service

For those we love, but see no longer

12:30pm 28th November 2019

Welcome to this special service when we have an opportunity to remember and to say thank you for those whom we love but see no longer. To assist this, please will you check the list at the back of the church to make sure the name of your loved one is there and please feel free to add other names of those you wish us to remember.

There will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory during the service.

Sentences

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. *Psalms 23:4*

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

Lamentations 3:22-23

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. *John 11:25-26*

Welcome

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.

And also with you.

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Today we come together to remember before God those who died at Mt. Erebus, to give thanks for their lives and to find comfort for those who grieve.

Prayer

Father in heaven, we thank you because you made us in your own image and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit. We thank you now for those we remember today and what they mean to each of us. As we honour their memory, make us more aware that you are the one from whom comes every perfect gift, including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hymn: 33 *Now Thank We All our God.*

Memorial Candles are lit

Prayer

Father in heaven, we give you thanks for those we remember today. We praise you as we recollect their lives and cherish their memory. We bless you that in bearing your image they brought light to our lives; for we have seen in their friendship reflections of your compassion, in their integrity demonstrations of your goodness, in their faithfulness glimpses of your eternal love.

Grant to each of us, the grace to follow their good example so that we with them may come to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory, to whom be praise for all eternity.

Amen.

Hymn: 425 *Abide with me*

Sermon

Prayers

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

Forgiveness prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you tell us to forgive even as we are forgiven. For some pain curdled into bitterness.

Help us to release and forgive.

We know no one wanted the aircraft to crash. Whatever errors the flight crew made, they too paid with their lives.

Peace be on them and with their families.

Those who made and found errors in the flight path, meant no harm.

Peace be on them and with their families.

For those involved in search and recovery:

We give thanks and pray for peace of mind.

For those who undertook the harrowing task of identifying bodies and restoring them to their families:

We give thanks and pray for peace of mind.

For the efforts of the Air Investigators to make sense of the disaster:

We give thanks.

For Mr Justice Mahon's courageous service heading the Commission of Inquiry:

We give thanks.

Where fear of litigation led Air New Zealand's management to distort or cover up the truth:

We forgive their weakness.

The Bible says, "Never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God."

We release these people from our judgement and trust you to deal justly with them and us.

We cannot change the fact that our loved ones have died.

We release them into your gracious care.

May they rest in peace.

Amen

God of love,

we thank you that those who died at Mt. Erebus are in your hands, far from the cruelty, violence and pain of our world. When the trouble was near, we could not understand how you seemed to remain far away. And yet it is to you we turn; for in life and death it is you alone whom we can trust, and yours alone is the love that holds us fast.

We have found it hard to forgive the deeds that brought us so much grief. But we know that, if life is soured by bitterness, an unforgiving spirit brings no peace. Lord, save us and help us. Strengthen in us the faith and hope that they are freed from the past with all its hurt, and rest for ever in the calm security of your love, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Erebus Voices

by Bill Manhire

The Mountain

I am here beside my brother, Terror.
I am the place of human error.

I am beauty and cloud, and I am sorrow;
I am tears which you will weep tomorrow.

I am the sky and the exhausting gale.
I am the place of ice. I am the debris trail.

And I am still a hand, a fingertip, a ring.
I am what there is no forgetting.

I am the one with truly broken heart.
I watched them fall, and freeze, and break apart.

The Dead

We fell. *Yet we were loved and we are lifted.*
We froze. *Yet we were loved and we are warm.*
We broke apart. *Yet we are here and we are whole.*

Hymn 270 New Every Morning is the Love

Blessing

May Christ the Good Shepherd enfold us with his love, fill us with his peace, and lead us in hope to the end of our days. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.

Amen



Thank you for joining us for this service.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about any issues that arise from this service.

Please introduce yourself today or contact us later:

Ian Hardcastle 424-0939

Anne Aspden 424-3693

Services: Sunday 8 & 10 am; Thursday 10 am