Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD

REQUIEM
praying for all those who have died
8pm
A very warm welcome to Christ Church and to this livestreamed service.

Today’s service is a special act of worship to mark All Souls’ Day, when the Church remembers those who have died, whether recently or long ago. In Christ we are still united with all those whom we love, even across the great abyss of death. And so we remember them in prayer because of our continuing love, as we entrust them and all people to God’s faithful care.

During the day, the Cathedral has been open for prayer. People have left names to be remembered aloud, and each of those people has been named before God in a simple livestreamed service at 7.30 pm. Now we offer you space to remember, to give thanks, and to bring before God all that may be unsaid, or weighing on you. God promises to bear all our burdens, and God promises too that nobody, dead or alive, is ever beyond the scope of his care and love.
Music before the service

A Room at the End of the Mind:
II. The Fall of the Leaf
Francis Pott (b. 1957)

The Greeting

Priest: Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.

The Priest welcomes the Congregation.

Prayer

President: Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President: God our Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the people you have given us
and the love they have shared with us
and we bring to you our grief
for those who are now lost to us.
Give us your comfort in all our pain
and give to all those we have loved
rest forever in your presence;
in perfect love and perfect peace.
Amen.
Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

4 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.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Gospel Reading
John 14: 1–4, 6 (NRSV)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Prayers of Entrusting and Commending

We bring before God all those we have loved; those who have died recently and those who have died long ago; those we miss and mourn; and we entrust them into God’s tender love.

Aria

Eugène Bozza (1905–91)

As the saxophone music rises and falls, brief prayers are offered by voices within the cathedral and a candle is lit after each intercession. Please offer your own prayers aloud or in your hearts. You might wish to say aloud the names of those you love who have died, or you might prefer to write their names or initials, or perhaps light a candle where you are. You might have something to say to God, or something to say to someone who died before you could say goodbye. This is a space for you and there is no right or wrong way to use it. God promises to meet you wherever you are.

Lord, you gave us people to love, and you have taken them away.
Turn to us, Lord, and have pity on us, and give us the comfort that you alone can give.

Lord, there is so much sorrow and regret.
The things we never said burn our mouths;
the things we wish we had not said burn our hearts;
things done and left undone revolve in our minds.
Give us your forgiveness, Lord, and hold us in peace.

Lord, we hope in your mercy.
We name before you those we love who have died;
those who died suddenly or unexpectedly,
who died too young, who died in pain,
and those who died in peace.
Receive them into your love
into the place prepared for them in your heavenly kingdom.
Lord, we hear your promises.
Give a place in your house
to all those we have named
and to all who have died with nobody to pray for them;
and at the last, bring us there too.

Rest eternal grant unto all those departed this life, O Lord,
let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace
and rise in glory.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

President Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise.

President Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven’s song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
hosanna in the highest.
President  Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love
and washed the guilty clean.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Send your Spirit on us now
and upon these gifts we bring before you
that by them we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All  Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.
The Lord’s Prayer

President  Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
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 today our daily bread. 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.

President  God’s holy gifts for God’s holy people.
All  Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Music for reflection

Partita in A minor, BWV 1013  Johann Sebastian Bach (1695–1750)

Prayer

President  Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, surround all those who mourn with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness and strength to meet the days to come. Amen.
**Blessing**

*President* May our risen Lord Jesus
give you his comfort and peace,
his light and his joy,
and lead you in hope to the end of your days;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you this day and for
evermore.

*All* **Amen.**

Neither death nor life
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

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**Music at the end of the service**

*Sonata for Alto Saxophone*
(2nd movement) Paul Creston (1906–85)

**Musicians**

Piano *Benjamin Collyer*
Saxophone *Daniel Poole*