

Service of Thanksgiving to God  
for the life of

# Gwen Maria Wales

(nee Fischer)



4 February 1941 – 4 November 2023

*In my distress I prayed to the Lord,  
and the Lord answered me and set me free.  
The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear...  
Yes, the Lord is for me; he will help me.  
(Psalm 118:5-6a, 7a)*

St Paul's Anglican Church, Turvey Park  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Presiding Minister: Pastor John Guilfoyle

## WELCOME

## GREETING

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** As we gather to give God thanks for the life of Gwen Wales, the Scriptures call out God's promises of love and comfort:

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Rom 6:3-5)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Eternal God, our heavenly Father: Be with us as we gather here in your presence to commend Gwen back into your hands. Assure us that you are close to us as we mourn. As we hear your promises, help us to trust in them and accept the comfort they offer. As we grieve Gwen's death, deepen our reliance on your goodness and mercy, so that we may not be trapped in sadness and loss but be sustained by your peace; through Jesus Christ we pray...**Amen.**

## **HYMN: Abide With Me**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

## **THE PSALM:** Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid?  
The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, why should I tremble?

**When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies & foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident.**

The one thing I ask of the Lord—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections & meditating in his Temple.

**For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock.**

Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me.

**At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing & praising the Lord!**

## **EULOGY & OBITUARY:** JASON WALES

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, has destroyed death and brings immortal life through His triumph over the grave. Let us thankfully remember some of what God has done in Gwen's life.

Gwen's family and many friends remember her faith and devotion, vibrant spirit, dedication and generous contribution to Christ's church and the community. We thank God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord for our sister Gwen.

## HYMN: How great Thou art

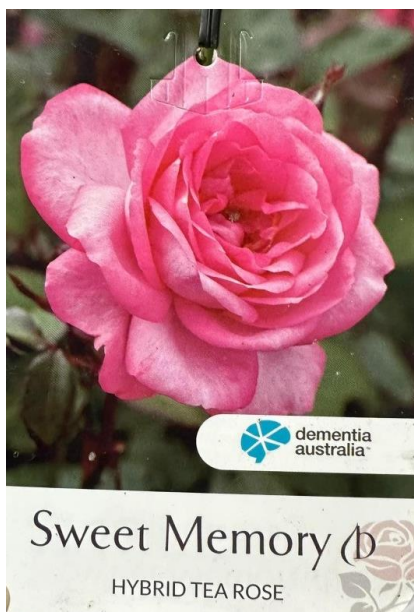
O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
he bled and died to take away my sin:

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!"



(Swedish folk tune. arr: Stuart K. Hine 1899-1989)

## **READING AND CONSOLATION:** John 10:11-16

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**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 forever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

**P:** The Almighty Lord, a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven and earth bow and obey, be now and forever your sure defence. May He renew your spirit by the power of His Holy Spirit and draw you to His heart in the hope and joy he grants to all people through Jesus Christ †.

**C: Amen**

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN: The Lord's my shepherd**

The LORD's my Shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; He leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk thro' death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishéd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me:  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

### **PALLBEARERS**

Matthew Garvie, Thomas Garvie, Zachary Wales  
Randyn Fischer, Gavin Fischer , Conrad Haggar, Aundre Haggar

*If we live, it's to honour the Lord. And if we die, it's to honour the Lord.  
So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Romans 14:8)*



After the service, the funeral cortege will depart for the Lawn Cemetery.

Gwen's family thanks you for your prayers & presence today and for your love, care, & friendship throughout her life.

You are invited to gather at the Koorinal Hotel following the burial for light refreshments and a time of remembering & joy.



2 Station Place, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650, Tel. 0269 218218 All Hours  
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