

**A Service of Thanksgiving for
Gudrun Kirsten Mowlem**



26 March 1926 – 15 December 2021

Saint James' Anglican Church, Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

29/12/2021

2.00PM

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music –Largo from the opera 'Xerxes' by George Frideric Handel

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sentence

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord.

'Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet will they live.' *John 11.25*

Loving God, you alone are the source of life.

May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,

and fill us with compassion, one for another.

In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.

**Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HONOURING AND REMEMBERING

Eulogies

Howard

Fr Peter (for Bodil)

Kirsten was born in Aarhus, Denmark in 1926, the youngest of three siblings, her brother Joern and sister Lissen, and spent a happy, carefree childhood.

Life changed, when war broke out and Denmark was invaded in 1940 and the country lived under German occupation.

After Kirsten finished school she took on a job as a dental assistant for a time but then, when the war was over, she decided to travel. With her girlfriend, she left her homeland to travel through the UK and also to find work there. She became an au pair to a family in Hampstead in England, and when she left, her employer wrote "I could not give a better reference to anyone. She is always cheerful and nothing has been too much for her".

It was during this time in the late 1940s in England that she met a young Australian ex-serviceman who himself had decided to travel to the UK after his years as a soldier in the Australian army. Kirsten told Bodil recently that she and Denis met at Hyde Park Speakers Corner and it was only a few months after this fortuitous meeting that they decided to get married. Love at first sight?

The wedding took place in July in Aarhus , Denmark in 1950. After the wedding they went back to England and left Southampton on the long sea voyage to Denis' home in Melbourne. It must have been a trying time for some of the trip because Kirsten never chose to willingly go on a boat again (not even the Sorrento Ferry). Kirsten and Denis lived with Denis' mother in East Malvern. In 1951

Bodil was born and her younger brother Howard in 1953.

It must have been incredibly hard for Kirsten leaving her family behind to travel as a young bride to a new country knowing no one but her husband. But, she was very resilient, friendly and keen to assimilate. And Denis had a sister and brother in law (Maxine and Hugh) who also lived in Melbourne and the friendship and social gatherings they enjoyed continued throughout their lives. Every Sunday afternoon they would meet for afternoon tea and a chat and a laugh.

Kirsten took on work to support the family. She joined Beacon Research Company and this involved driving to designated suburbs all around Melbourne conducting surveys, usually relating to laundry powders. Kirsten would stand at the door, holding a clipboard, going through all the questions required of the interviewee, grateful if someone offered her a glass of water. She was left with significant shoulder problems after this job, and Bodil and Howard's childhood is flavoured by the constant smell of dencorub!

Kirsten and Denis moved house a few times and enjoyed their time in Carrum and later in Windsor in the 1970s

where they had a flat. They had wonderful neighbours and shared barbecues and social gatherings. It was a particularly happy time of their lives. In Carrum, both Kirsten and Denis volunteered in many church activities and Kirsten continued this volunteering later on working in op shops.

She loved going to the ballet, theatre, music and was a keen cross-stitcher for many years. She liked her magazines, particularly anything to do with the royal family, be it the Danish royals or the British royals. Her nephews in Denmark would regularly send out the calendars of the Danish royal family to her every year.

Danish traditions were very important to Kirsten and she loved to talk about these recalled from traditions from her youth - like dancing around the Christmas tree and the food that she enjoyed. Herring, rye bread, liverwurst. Bodil and Howard could not understand the appeal of that!!.

After Denis died in 1999, she moved to a beautiful apartment in Malvern close to excellent shopping opportunities and a short tram ride to the city. When Kirsten could no longer manage to live independently she moved to Coorabin and then Arcare in Point

Lonsdale. She still formed friendships and enjoyed the company she found there. Kirsten liked to go shopping, out to lunch and sit on a bench by the sea, happy to have a chat with people who came by.

The last two years, with increasing health problems, life became difficult. Her special carer Elisabeth from Arcare was an immense help to her showing support and kindness and helping her maintain her dignity.

Everyone remembers her humour, her laugh and her real interest in her family. Her son in law, Tony, her daughter in law Judi, three grandchildren Nicola, Rebecca and Karin and two great grandchildren, Esther and Max. Kirsten's family was a source of great joy to her – both her family here in (nephew Ross and niece Meredith) and her extended family in Denmark.

We will all miss her.

Lighting of Candles

Excerpt from 'Four Seasons' by
Antonio Vivaldi

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

After each reading:

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

First Reading

Sirach 2.1-9

Rebecca

- 2 My child, when you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for testing.
- 2 Set your heart right and be steadfast,
and do not be impetuous in time of calamity.
- 3 Cling to him and do not depart,
so that your last days may be prosperous.
- 4 Accept whatever befalls you,
and in times of humiliation be patient.
- 5 For gold is tested in the fire,
and those found acceptable, in the furnace of humiliation.
- 6 Trust in him, and he will help you;
make your ways straight, and hope in him.
- 7 You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy;
do not stray, or else you may fall.
- 8 You who fear the Lord, trust in him,
and your reward will not be lost.
- 9 You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.

Gospel

Luke 12.20-31

Nicola

²⁰But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

Do Not Worry

22 He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And can any of

you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Homily

Fr Peter

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead for the salvation of all.

After each prayer is said:

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father,
who raised Jesus Christ from the dead for the salvation of all.
Thanks be to God for the gift of life.

You have made us in your image,
and called us to reflect your truth and light.

We thank you for the life of Gudrun Kirsten Mowlem.

We give thanks for Kirsten's cheerfulness, sense of fun,
kindness and caring nature.

Above all, we thank you for your gracious promise
to all your servants, living and departed,
that we shall be made one again
in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Pause ... 3 heartbeats)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we thank you that you received Gudrun by baptism
into the family of your Church on earth,
and granted her the gift of eternal life.
she ate with us the bread of life
and drank from the cup of salvation.
We thank you for all your goodness to Gudrun,
in Christ our Saviour.

(Pause ... 3 heartbeats)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

God of all mercy, giver of all comfort:

look graciously, we pray, on those who mourn especially *Bodil and Howard, their families; for the wider family and friends gathered here and online through livestreaming.*

Casting all their cares on you,
may they know the consolation of your love.

(Pause ... 3 heartbeats)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Grant us forgiveness, and assure us of your love.

(Pause ... 3 heartbeats)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Strengthen us to love and obey you,

that we may live the rest of our lives in following your Son,

and be ready when you call us to the fullness of eternal life.

(Pause ... 3 heartbeats)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Show your mercy to the dying.

Sustain them with hope,

and fill them with the peace and joy of your presence.

(Pause ... 3 heartbeats)

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We praise you, Lord God, for your faithful servants in every age. May we, with Kirsten, along with Denis, Maxine and Hugh, Joern and Lissen now with God, and all who have died in the faith of Christ, be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your eternal kingdom.

(Pause ... 3 heartbeats)

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with:

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE FAREWELL

Hymn Immortal, invisible, God only wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, but ruling in might;
your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. You give life to all, Lord, to both great and small,
in all life now living, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on a tree,
then wither: but ever unchanged you will be.
4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
of all your rich graces this grace, Lord, impart —
take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart.
5. All praise we would render: reveal to our sight
what hides you is only the splendour of light;
and so let your glory, Almighty, impart,
through Christ in the story, your Christ to the heart.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our sister Kirsten by
water and the Spirit.

Grant that her death may recall to us your victory
over death, and be an occasion for us
to renew our trust in your Father's love.

Give us, we pray, the faith to follow
where you have led the way,
to live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
to the ages of ages.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Let us entrust our sister Kirsten to the mercy of God.

Silence

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

THE COMMITTAL

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you have given us a sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to eternal life.
In your keeping are all who have departed in Christ.
We here commit the body of our dear sister Kirsten
to be cremated; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died, and was buried, and rose again for us,
and who shall change our mortal body
that it may be like his glorious body.

**Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Go in peace in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn Praise my soul the King of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
praise the everlasting king!
2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
glorious in his faithfulness!
3. Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
widely as his mercy flows!
4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
praise the high eternal one!
5. Angels, help us to adore him,
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
praise with us the God of grace!