

The Reverend Doctor M. Allan McDowell – Funeral Liturgy (Draft One)

Introit: Hymns by Donna Matheson (piano) & Natalie Edwards (vocals) by recording as people gather:
- Joyful, Joyful; Will You Come And Follow Me & In the Bulb There Is A Flower

Opening Words from Scripture:

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and is committed to me in faith, shall not die for ever. (*John 11.25–26*)

Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (*John 14.1–3*)

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (*Romans 8.38–39*)

Words of Greeting & Welcome

Hymn: Praise My Soul

Psalm 116

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, * because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; * I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: * "O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; * our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the innocent; * I was brought very low, and he helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, * for the Lord has treated you well.

For you have rescued my life from death, * my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord * in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low" * In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

How shall I repay the Lord * for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation * and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord * in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of his servants.

O Lord, I am your servant; * I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving * and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord * in the presence of all his people.

In the courts of the Lord's house, * in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

Amen.

**Video Message and Prayer: The Right Reverend Doctor Richard Bott
Moderator of the United Church of Canada**

Eulogies by Mary Ann McDowell & Mark McDowell

Prayer:

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

Show compassion to your people in their sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief to the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death and by rising again, restored life.

May we then go forward eagerly to meet him, and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters where every tear will be wiped away.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: I Heard The Voice of Jesus

Readings from Scripture (read by Janet Stark): Acts 17:24-28 & Philippians 1:20-21

Homily: The Reverend Canon W. Lynn Dillabough

Hymn: O Lord Of Life, Where'er They Be

O Lord of life weher'er they be, safe in thine own eternity, our dead are living unto thee. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All souls are thine, and here or there they rest within thy sheltering care; one providence alike they share. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thy word is true, thy ways are just; above the requiem, "Dust to dust," shall rise our psalm of grateful trust. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O happy they in God who rest, no more by fear and doubt oppressed; living or dying, they are blest. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,

All the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Leader Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. *People Hear us, Lord.*

Leader May all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection die to sin and rise to newness of life, and may we with him pass through the grave and gate of death to our joyful resurrection. *People Hear us, Lord.*

Leader Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. *People Hear us, Lord.*

Leader Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind. *People Hear us, Lord.*

Leader Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love. *People Hear us, Lord.*

Leader Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. *People* **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Grant us grace to entrust Allan to your never-failing love which sustained him in this life. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favour you bear for your people. *People* **Hear us, Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant Gathering all our cares into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

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

Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

The Commendation

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

“You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

The celebrant, facing the body, says,

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,
we commend your servant Allan.
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Receive him into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Celebrant Go forth in the name of Christ. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude by Donna Matheson & Natalie Edwards: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

The Committal (at the graveside – Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Maitland)

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.
John 6.37

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit. *Romans 8.11*

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. *Psalm 16.9*

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. *Psalm 16.11*

Then (while earth is cast upon the coffin if appropriate), the celebrant says,

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother Allan, and we commit his body to the ground; † earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

The celebrant says, The Lord be with you. *People And also with you. Celebrant* Let us pray. *The celebrant then offers prayers, followed by: Celebrant* Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord. *People And let light perpetual shine upon him. Celebrant* May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *People Amen.*

May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *People Amen.*

Celebrant Go forth in the name of Christ. *People Thanks be to God.*