

Melanie Erna Howland

31st October 1949 - 12th October 2026

Entrance Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Greeting

Reverend Vijay
Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Please be seated.
We have come together to thank God for the life of Melanie, to mourn and honour her, to lay to rest her mortal body, and to support one another in grief.
We face the certainty of our own death and judgement, yet Christians believe that those who die in Christ share eternal life with him. Therefore, in faith and hope we turn to God, who created and sustains us all.

Sentences from Scripture

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.
Revelation 21:4
I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?
John 11:25–26

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.
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.

First Reading

Romans 8:38–39
Read by Sandra Pearce
For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

John 14:1–5
Read by Chantal Howland (daughter-in-law)
Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.
Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Eulogy

Nicholas Howland (eldest son)

Photo Reflection

Address

Hymn

Amazing Grace

The Prayers

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Life
Almighty God and merciful Father,
we give you hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us
and to all people.
We bless you for our creation and preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all, for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such a sense of all your mercies,
that our hearts may be truly thankful
and that we may praise you
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
serving you in holiness and righteousness all our days,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory,
now and for ever. Amen.
Prayer for Those Who Mourn
Gracious God,
surround us and all who mourn this day
with your continuing compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm your children,
or turn them against you.
When grief seems never-ending,
take them one step at a time
along your road of death and resurrection
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

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

Please stand.
Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to Melanie 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. Amen.
Let us entrust Melanie to the mercy of God.
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 Melanie 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 Melanie, 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.

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy for us, you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Be our refuge and strength in sorrow. As your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us conquered death, and by rising again restored us to life, so may we go forward in faith to meet him, and after our life on earth be united with our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, where every tear will be wiped away, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace this day and forevermore. Amen.
Let us go in peace, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Closing Song

Song for Guy – Elton John



With Heartfelt Thanks

Melanie's family would like to sincerely thank everyone for their love, kindness and support during this difficult time. Your presence here today is deeply appreciated.

Family and friends are warmly invited to join us at Redlands Sporting Club following the service to share refreshments and fond memories of Melanie.

Scan for Online Tribute

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