

*A Service of Celebration
for the Life of*



Marion Cecily Port

19th July 1928 ~ 12th March 2026

Upwaltham Barns
Friday 10th April 2026
At 2pm



1947



2025



2025



1954

Order of Service

Gathering Music

Elgar: Introduction and Allegro for Strings

Entry Music

The Humming Chorus from Puccini's Madame Butterfly

Words of Welcome

Sarah Port

Please stand

Hymn

(3 verses: 1-2-3)

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

Tribute

Valerie Cutko

Afterglow

by Helen Lowrie Marshall

Read by Roland O'Brien

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

Eulogy

Gordon Port



Reading

Alix How

Walk Within You by Nicholas Evans

If I be the first of us to die, Let grief not blacken long your sky.
Be bold yet modest in your grieving. There is a change but not a leaving.
For just as death is part of life, The dead live on forever in the living.
 And all the gathered riches of our journey,
 The moments shared, the mysteries explored,
 The steady layering of intimacy stored,
 The things that made us laugh or weep or sing,
The joy of sunlit snow or first unfurling of the spring,
 The wordless language of look and touch,
 The knowing, Each giving and each taking,
 These are not flowers that fade,
 Nor trees that fall and crumble,
 Nor are they stone,
For even stone cannot the wind and rain withstand
And mighty mountain peaks in time reduce to sand.

What we were, we are. What we had, we have.
 A conjoined past imperishably present.
So when you walk the wood where once we walked together
And scan in vain the dappled bank beside you for my shadow,
Or pause where we always did upon the hill to gaze across the land,
 And spotting something, reach by habit for my hand,
And finding none, feel sorrow start to steal upon you, Be still.
 Close your eyes. Breathe.
 Listen for my footfall in your heart.
I am not gone but merely walk within you.

A Moment of Reflection with Music

Shostakovich Piano Concerto number 2

Please stand

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 through 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 furnished
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.

Thomas Merton Prayer

Juliet Coria

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me,
and I cannot know for certain where it will end,
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will,
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire,
and I know that if I do this,
you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust in you always;
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death,
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Amen.

Committal

(Family members may lay sprigs of rosemary for remembrance with Marion)

*Mendelssohn: Nocturne
(From a Midsummer Night's Dream)*

Closing Words

Please stand

Hymn

The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away:
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

May we find humility and forgiveness in our lives,
Understanding for those who are troubled in their grief,
Thankfulness to those who care for us
And thoughtfulness for all of our fellows
As we hope they treat us also with consideration and care.
Go from this ceremony with your hearts full of compassion for one
another, knowing that Marion would not wish you to be sad.

Closing Music

Elgar: Introduction and Allegro for Strings



2nd June 1950



2nd June 2000



1998



1951

Marions family would like to thank everyone for their support and kind messages of sympathy. There will be a memory book after the ceremony: we would love to read your contributions.



Tea will be served in the South Barn after the ceremony to carry on remembering Marion's special life.

Donations in memory of Marion can be made to support
Midhurst Palliative Care
via www.merrittsofmidhurst.co.uk
Funeral Notices – Marion Port



MERRITT'S *of* **MIDHURST**
FUNERAL SERVICE LTD.

Rumbolds Hill, Midhurst, GU29 9DG
Telephone: 01730 816245
enquiries@merrittsofmidhurst.co.uk