

A Service To Celebrate
The Life Of

Valentina Maria Stapleton



8th February 1976 ~ 20th January 2026

St. George's Church, Eastergate
Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 12:00 Noon

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Service conducted by
The Reverend Canon Paul Armstead*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**INTRODUCTION
and WELCOME**

HYMN

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore,
My dwelling place shall be.

TRIBUTE

READING

1 Corinthians 13

HYMN

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain:

*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
And 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:

And 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 shall I bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

ADDRESS

PRAYERS *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

1. I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all,
wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all
in the Dance, said he.*

2. I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John -
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

3. I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.

4. I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black -
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.

5. They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

FAREWELL *and* COMMENDATION

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

Maccabaeus (Thine be the glory)

THE COMMITTAL

Follows at the graveside in the churchyard



You are warmly invited for refreshments after the service at:
The Wilkes Head, Eastergate. (Next to the church)

Donations in Valentina's memory are being gratefully received in support of:
"St. Wilfrid's Hospice" and "St. George's Church"

To donate to the work of the church please use the collection plate
or card reader at the back of the church.

To donate to the hospice, please either scan the QR code below or
donate online at: <https://valentinastapleton.muchloved.com/>
Alternatively donations by cash, or cheque payable to "St. Wilfrid's Hospice"
may be sent c/o: Kevin Holland Funeral Service
246 Chichester Road, Bognor Regis PO21 5BA.

