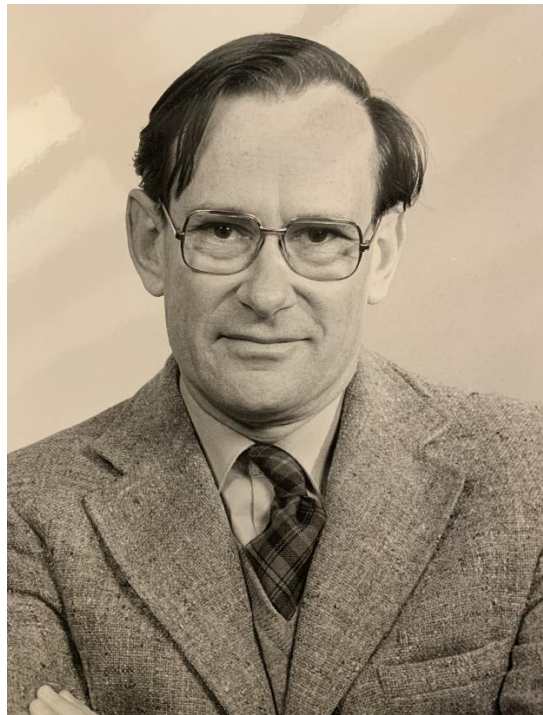




CHURCH OF CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE
Milton Keynes

MEMORIAL SERVICE



DAVID JOHN MURRAY
1935 – 2023

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2024
12.30PM

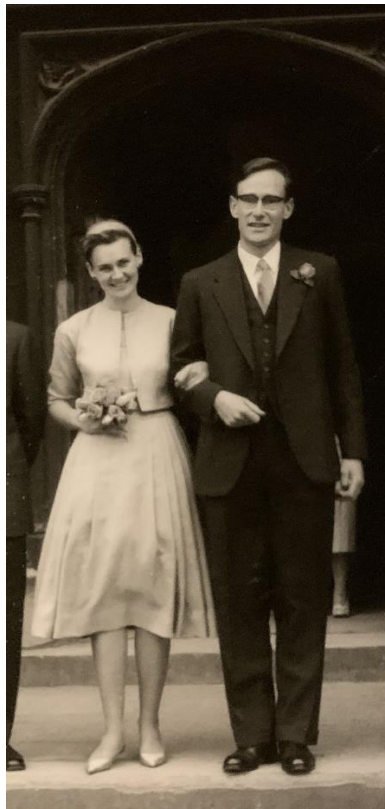
DAVID JOHN MURRAY

Life with David was always full of adventuresome adventuring which I would not have missed for the world: driving thousands of miles across West Africa, just the two of us across often uncharted and sometimes non-existent roads; leaping across (or was it going to be INTO) a bottomless Dartmoor bog, traversing the vast Pacific in a tiny single-engine plane not sure if the fuel would last out. On the face of it terrifying but not if I was with David. Fiji with the ever-resilient children was an adventure too, so was the Open University - risky and controversial but the greatest and most magnificent adventure of all.

And the excitement and delight of creating a home amongst the Elizabethan cottages of Old Bletchley, walking in the woods with the dogs, and finding this church with its ecumenical convictions so apt for both our backgrounds.

There were - um - moments of course! but 60 years ...! It had not properly come home to me while he was in this life - but I am increasingly realising he was actually a great man.

Ruth Murray



Gathering music

CHOIR ANTHEM

—*Purcell Funeral Music for Queen Mary*

THE GATHERING

—Rev Ernesto Lozada-Uzuriaga

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.
Grace and mercy be with you.

And also with you.

Silence

We look not to the things that are seen
but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient
but the things that are unseen are eternal.
Today we come together
to remember before God our brother David
to give thanks for his life
and to comfort one another in our grief. **Amen**

HYMN

—Joy to the World *Isaac Watts (1774-1748)*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the Earth, the Saviour reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

OPENING PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank you because you made us in your own image and gave us gifts in body, mind, and spirit. We thank you now for David and what he meant to each of us. As we honour his memory, make us more aware that you are the one from whom comes every perfect gift, including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

REFLECTIONS

By Ruth Murray

FIRST READING

—Psalm 121

Read by Ruth Murray

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth you shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you. John Rutter

Christ the Cornerstone Church Choir

GOSPEL READING

—John 1: 1 – 5 & 3: 16

Read by Duncan Hole – Son in Law

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MEMORIES OF DAVID

—*Francis Sealey from The BBC Open University*

HYMN

— Hills of the North Rejoice *Charles E. Oakley (1832-1865)*

Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

PRAYER

—*Read by Jonty Russ – Grandson*

As the Lord thought good so it came to pass. Let us adopt those marvellous words. At the hands of the righteous Judge, they who show like good deeds shall receive a like reward. He whom we love is not hidden in the ground; he is received into heaven. Let us wait a little while, and we shall be once more with him. The time of our separation is not long, for in this life we are all like travellers on a journey, hastening on to the same shelter. While one has reached his rest another arrives, another hurries on but one and the same end awaits them all. **Amen**

MEMORIES OF DAVID

—By Rachel Murray – Daughter

Isa Lei (recording of the Fijian Police Band)

Fijian Farewell song

MEMORIES OF DAVID

—By Kathleen Russ – Daughter

Musical reflections

HYMN

—He who would valiant be *John Bunyan (1628-1688)*

He who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound—
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
though he with giants fight;
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou dost defend
us with Thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,

I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

MEDITATION

—Rev Ernesto Lozada-Uzuriaga

Choral response

PRAYERS & INTERCESSIONS

Father in heaven, we give you thanks for your servant, David. We praise you as we recollect his life and cherish his memory. We bless you that in bearing your image he has brought light to our lives; for we have seen in his friendship reflections of your compassion, in his integrity demonstrations of your goodness, in his faithfulness glimpses of your eternal love. Grant to each of us, beloved and bereft, the grace to follow his good example so that we with him may come to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory, to whom be praise for all eternity.

Silence

We give you thanks and praise, almighty Father, that you sent your Son to die, and raised him from the dead for the salvation of all.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for David who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, and now through faith rejoices with the saints in glory.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for our brother who shared the bread of life, a foretaste of the eternal banquet of heaven.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for our deceased relatives and friends, who have helped us in the faith and now find rest from their labours.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you that the family and friends of our brother David may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord God, creator of all, you have made us creatures of this earth, but have also promised us a share in life eternal. According to your promises, may all who have died in the peace of Christ share with your saints in the joy of heaven, where there is neither sorrow nor pain but life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

THE COMMENDATION

—Rev Ernesto Lozada-Uzuriaga

Almighty God, in your great love you crafted us by your hand and breathed life into us by your Spirit. Although we became a rebellious people, you did not abandon us to our sin. In your tender mercy you sent your Son to restore in us your image. In obedience to your will he gave up his life for us, bearing in his body our sins on the cross. By your mighty power you raised him from the grave and exalted him to the throne of glory. Rejoicing in his victory and trusting in your promise to make alive all who turn to Christ, we commend David to your mercy and we join with all your faithful people and the whole company of heaven in the one unending song of praise: glory and wisdom and honour be to our God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

—A Safe Stronghold our God is Still *Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

A safe stronghold our God is still,
a trusty shield and weapon;
he'll keep us clear from all the ill

that hath us now o'ertaken.
The ancient prince of hell
hath risen with purpose fell;
strong mail of craft and power
he weareth in this hour;
on earth is not his fellow.

With force of arms we nothing can,
full soon were we down-ridden;
but for us fights the proper Man
whom God himself hath bidden.
Ask ye, who is this same?
Christ Jesus is his name,
the Lord Sabaoth's Son;
he, and no other one,
shall conquer in the battle.

And were this world all devils o'er,
and watching to devour us,
we lay it not to heart so sore;
not they can overpower us.
And let the prince of ill
look grim as e'er he will,
he harms us not a whit;
for why? His doom is writ;
a word shall quickly slay him.

God's word, for all their craft and force,
one moment will not linger,
but, spite of hell, shall have its course;
'tis written by his finger.
And though they take our life,
goods, honour, children, wife,
yet is their profit small;
these things shall vanish all:
the city of God remaineth.

THE DISMISSAL

—Rev Ernesto Lozada-Uzuriaga

Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant to us, Lord God, to trust you not for ourselves alone, but also for those whom we love and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death; that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, so may we trust your love to give eternal life to all who believe in him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Silence

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Trout Quintet – Franz Schubert

Please join us for refreshments and companionship afterwards at the Guildhall

Collection in aid of The Woodland Trust

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/d-1707314906560davidmurraymemorialfund?checkoutMode=Headless>



NOTES BY RUTH

The music which we have chosen and the readings and music are all in one way or another related to David.

The John reading is one of his and his father's favourite sayings, and the extract from Psalm 121 carries shared memories and convictions.

The Purcell funeral music came to me as a sign from David to tell me he would soon be on his way. In the night of 18/19 December it came to me strongly and all through the next day too: That was David's 88th birthday and the last day I was with him in this life. I knew what he was telling me.

Rutter "Blessing." We first heard it here - and many times - beautifully sung by the choir in this church. It is fitting as well as beautiful.

"Isa lei," the popular Fijian farewell song, brings back vivid family memories of the spectacularly uniformed Fijian military band, marching on the Suva quayside as a great liner departed. It is both a farewell of a group to a group and of an individual to a loved one, so a poignant as well as striking recollection.

Schubert's The Trout Quintet was David's favourite piece of music.

The hymns recall, and fit with, aspects of David's life, "Joy to the world," David loved anything by Isaac Watts, that great Congregationalist hymnist, and this one specially.

A few years ago I asked David for his favourite carol: "Hills of the north" he replied unhesitatingly. It can also be sung all year round and has always been especially popular in missionary circles - his background.

He who would Valiant Be - Besides its connection with David's final years, spent in a loving care home in John Bunyan's Bedford, the words are exactly appropriate. David, helped by others (some of them here) was indeed a pilgrim, notably in his constitutional and tertiary-education work. May the trumpets sound for him on the other side.

Martin Luther's "A safe stronghold ...", strong anthem of the Reformation, exactly fits David's aspirations and faith. Its choral quality is also a beautiful part of the great Christian choral tradition.



David and Ruth were married on the 7th of September 1963
in the University Church, Oxford

