



# A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Nissanaka Kuru-Utumpala

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
8.00 am



## Order of Service

*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.*

*All stand as the clergy enter*

*Remain standing to sing*

Hymn

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.***

**Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

*All sit. The Ven. Christopher Balraj, Vicar, welcomes the congregation*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you.  
**and also with you.**

We are gathered together in this Chapel to remember before God the life of Nissanka Kuru-Utumpala; to give thanks for his life and to remember his faith, kindness and loyalty.

We remember Nissanka's love of his family and friends and give thanks for his devotion to his wife Jacintha, and his love for his children Rukshan and Jayanthi, and the many friends he nurtured over the years.

Jesus, Son of David, whose holy house this is, taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for him.

So let us pray first for those who need our prayers: for the lonely and the unloved, the lost and the powerless, the sick and the fearful, that they may know the love of God and feel the hand of friendship and support from those who, like Nissanka, love others as God loves us.

Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

*All sing*

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*The vicar continues*

Prayer

O God of grace and glory,  
we remember before you this day your faithful servant, Nissanka.  
We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends,  
to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage.  
In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.  
Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life,  
so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on  
earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have  
gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Remain seated*

Tribute

**The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.**

All sit

## Reading

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians Chapter 15

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Look, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”  
“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.  
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast,  
immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you  
know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15. 50-58

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated for the reading of*

## Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep

by Mary Elizabeth Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there; I did not die.

*All stand to sing*

Hymn

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.**

*All sit*

Sermon

*given by*

Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo

*Bishop of Colombo*

*All stand to sing*

Hymn

**O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,  
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;  
eternal Lord, the King of all the ages,  
unchanging still, amid the passing years:  
O living Word, the source of all creation,  
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,  
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,  
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.**

**O Christ the same, the friend of sinners sharing  
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,  
still as of old upon Your body bearing  
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:  
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,  
O Prince of Life, in all Your saving power,  
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,  
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.**

**O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping  
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,  
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,  
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:  
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,  
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,  
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,  
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.**

*All kneel or remain seated*

In silence let us remember before God his servant, Nissanka

*Silence is kept*

Father in heaven, we praise your name  
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,  
for the example of their lives,  
the life and grace you gave them,  
and the peace in which they rest.  
We praise you today for your servant, Nissanka  
and for all that you did through him  
Meet us in our sadness and fill our hearts with praise and  
thanksgiving, for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved  
one and are grieving at this time

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.**

And finally let us pray for readiness to live in the  
Light of Eternity

Grant us, Lord,  
the wisdom and the grace  
to use aright the time  
that is left to us on earth.  
Lead us to repent of our sins,  
the evil we have done  
and the good we have not done;  
and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son,  
in the way that leads to the fullness of eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The vicar continues,*

## Thanksgiving for the life of Nissanka Kuru-Utumpala

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us all with the gift of this earthly life  
and has given to Nissanka his span of years and  
gifts of character.

God our Father, we thank you now for all his life,  
for every memory of love and joy,  
for every good deed done by him  
and every sorrow shared with us.

We thank you for his life and for his death,  
we thank you for the rest in Christ he now enjoys,  
we thank you for giving him to us,  
we thank you for the glory we shall share together.  
Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*All sing*

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*The vicar gives,*

## The Blessing

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.**

**O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home;**

**Under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all its sons away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.**

Members of the congregation are all invited  
to a time of fellowship in the Parish Hall

