



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Ann Frances Benton

9 AUGUST 1950 - 5 JUNE 2026



FUNERAL SERVICE
JULY 23, 2026 12:30 PM
ST JOHN'S RC CHURCH, BROMLEY CROSS





ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ARRIVAL

Ave Maria
J.S. Bach, arr. Gounod

WELCOME

Fr. Alfred Rebello

HYMN

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound!
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come:
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

Amazing Grace
Words by John Newton
Music by William Walker

TRIBUTE

Nicola King

OPENING PRAYER

READING

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:1-2

PSALM

Please stand to sing the Psalm

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 in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none 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 for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Psalm 23

Words from the Scottish Psalter
Melody by Jessie S. Urbine, Harm. T.C.L. Pritchard

GOSPEL

Please remain standing for the Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many rooms.

If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

John 14:1-6

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PRAYERS

The response to 'Lord in your mercy' is 'Hear our prayer'.

For Ann, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life,
that she may now be admitted into the company of the saints.

For Ann, who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life,
that she may be raised up on the last day.

For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all who have
helped us, that they may have the reward for their goodness.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again,
that they all see God face to face and rest in peace.

For the family and friends of Ann, that they be consoled in their
grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith,
that we may be gathered again one day in God's kingdom.

Let us ask Mary, Mother of God, to pray for us as we say:
**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou
amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the
hour of our death. Amen.**

And in silence, let us pray to God who alone can satisfy our
deepest needs.

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. Amen.**

READING

She's in the sun, the wind, the rain,
she's in the air you breathe
with every breath you take.
She sings a song of hope and cheer,
there's no more pain, no more fear.
You'll see her in the clouds above,
hear her whisper words of love,
you'll be together before long,
until then, listen for her song.

She's in the Sun, the Wind, the Rain
Words by Christy Ann Martine
Read by Lucia Benton

READING

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.

I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
the palm of my hand,
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Phenomenal Woman
Words by Maya Angelou
Read by Hannah King

ANTHEM

Sung by the choir

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Crossing the Bar

Words by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Music by Rani Arbo

CLOSING PRAYERS & BLESSING

HYMN

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.

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.

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.

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.

Lord of all hopefulness

Words by Jan Struther

Traditional Irish tune, Harm. Erik Routley

Following the service, please join us at the Last Drop to continue our celebration of Ann's life, achievements and legacy.

Donations in memory of Ann are being collected for Bolton Hospice who provided excellent care to Ann and her family during her last few weeks.

Visit <https://ann-benton.muchloved.com> or scan the QR code to donate.



Ann's family would like to express their sincere thanks to Fr. Alfred Rebello and Revd. Daniel Burton for leading the service, and to the BMS Singers, directed by Alex Patterson, with organist, Saul Knights, for providing such lovely music.





