

# ALL SOULS' SERVICE 2024

*Welcome to Seal Church.*

*If you would like a loved one remembered by name in our prayers tonight and haven't added their name to the list already, please speak to the priest before the service starts.*



*If you would like to **light a candle** in memory of a loved one before the service starts, please do so, but there will also be a chance to light your candle during the service if you prefer.*

*Choir sing*

Within our darkest night,  
you kindle the fire that never dies away,  
that never dies away.

Within our darkest night,  
you kindle the fire that never dies away,  
that never dies away.

## **INTRODUCTION AND OPENING PRAYER**

God our refuge and strength, close at hand in our distress;  
meet us in times of sorrow and lift our eyes  
to the peace and light of your constant care.  
Help us so to hear your word of grace  
that our fear will be dispelled by your love,  
our loneliness eased by your presence  
and our hope renewed by your promises  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All sing*

**Within our darkest night,  
you kindle the fire that never dies away,  
that never dies away.**

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you kindle the fire that never dies away,  
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**Within our darkest night,  
you kindle the fire that never dies away,  
that never dies away.**

## **VERSES FROM PSALM 84**

**All: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!**

My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**All: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house: they will always be praising you. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion, who going through the barren valley find there a spring, and the early rains will clothe it with blessing.

They will go from strength to strength and appear before God in Zion.

**All: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!**

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; listen, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God, and look upon the face of your anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

**All: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!**

For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory; no good thing shall the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord God of hosts, blessed are those who put their trust in you.

**All: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!**

*Choir sing*

Stay with me, remain here with me,

Watching and praying, watching and praying

**All sing**

**Stay with me, remain here with me,**

**Watching and praying, watching and praying**

**Stay with me, remain here with me,**

**Watching and praying, watching and praying**

## **BIBLE READING Romans 8. 31-35,37-39**

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **POEM** by Rabindranath Tagore

In desperate hope I go and search for her in all the corners of my room;  
I find her not.  
My house is small and what once has gone from it can never be regained.  
But infinite is thy mansion, my lord,  
and seeking her I have come to thy door.  
I stand under the golden canopy of thine evening sky  
and I lift my eager eyes to thy face.  
I have come to the brink of eternity from which nothing can vanish  
– no hope, no happiness, no vision of a face seen through tears.  
Oh, dip my emptied life into that ocean, plunge it into the deepest fullness.  
Let me for once feel that lost sweet touch in the allness of the universe.

*from Gitanjali (Song Offerings) c.1910*

## **TALK**

*Choir sing:*

Oh Lord hear my prayer, Oh Lord hear my prayer  
When I call, answer me  
Oh Lord hear my prayer, oh Lord hear my prayer  
Come and listen to me

## **PRAYERS**

*During the prayers the response is sung by all:*

Minister says: Oh Lord here our prayer

**All sing: Oh Lord hear my prayer, Oh Lord hear my prayer**

**When I call, answer me**

**Oh Lord here our prayer, oh Lord here our prayer**

**Come and listen to me**

*At the end of the prayers the names of those to be remembered today are read aloud. After the names have been read, you are invited to come and light a candle, if you haven't done so already, as a prayer for those you are particularly remembering. Music will be played as we light our candles. When all have returned to their seats, we finish the prayers with the following responses:*

In our sorrows

**All: Give us your peace**

In our regrets

**All: Give us your forgiveness**

In our loneliness

**All: Give us your comfort**

In life and in death

**All: Be with us and those for whom we pray this night.**

Grant to us, Lord God, to trust you not for ourselves alone, but for those also 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 your children through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

**All: Hear us, O merciful Father,  
as we remember in love those whom we have placed in your hands.  
Acknowledge, we pray, the sheep of your own fold,  
lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming.  
Enfold them in the arms of your mercy,  
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace,  
and in the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.**

*Choir sing:*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

**All sing:**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

**THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

May God give you  
his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be  
with you now and forever. **Amen**

Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God

in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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## **GIVING TO SEAL CHURCH: Ways to give**



**IN CASH** in the plate at the back of church.

**ONLINE:** *by scanning the QR code on the right.* (

**TEXT SEALCHURCH to 70085** to donate £5. Other amounts can be donated  
up to £20 by adding the number of pounds after the word. To donate £10, text  
SEALCHURCH10, for example, or SEALCHURCH3 to give £3. Commission applies.

**DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK:** Ac name: Seal PCC, Sort code: 30-97-49 Ac no:  
01377463

**BY CARD** using the contactless device at the back of church

*Information about other ways of giving to Seal Church can be found on  
posters at the back of church or on the church website.*

**For more help in thinking about death and dealing with bereavement**

<http://churchofenglandfunerals.org/>, <http://www.dyingmatters.org/>

<http://www.winstonswish.org.uk/>

More details of all our services and activities [www.sealpeterandpaul.com](http://www.sealpeterandpaul.com)

The music sung this evening was written by the community of Taizé. Taizé is  
a community in France that works towards peace and reconciliation.