

*Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell for*  
**Haleh Afshar**

Wednesday 8 June 2022



***“The most beautiful things in the world  
cannot be seen or touched, they are felt with the heart.”***

(from the book *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)



### **Opening Music**

Ali Akbar Moradi and Kayhan Kalhor, *In The Mirror of the Sky*

### **Welcome and Introduction**

The Revd Adam Romanis

### **Song to be sung by all**

(led by a singing group, please join in if you would like to)

*There is a Season* by Peter Seeger, *publisher: T.R.O. INC.*



To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down  
A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time of love, a time of hate  
A time of war, a time of peace  
A time you may embrace, a time to refrain from embracing

To everything (turn, turn, turn)  
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)  
And a time to every purpose, under heaven

A time to gain, a time to lose  
A time to rend, a time to sew  
A time for love, a time for hate  
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

## Opening Prayer

Eternal God, you bring all to birth  
And it is in your arms that we die  
In grief and loss, contain and comfort us  
Give light in our darkness, give hope, give peace  
And in your own good time give grace  
To let go into new life  
Through Jesus Christ the Lord  
Amen

## Tributes from

Molly Newton  
Ali Afshar Dodson  
Lord Bishop Sentamu



## Haleh's translation of a Persian poem by Hafez

Read by Farideh Honary

Do you know what friendship is?  
It is to behold the beloved  
And prefer to be a beggar at her door to ruling a kingdom.  
It is easy to forgo one's life, but not so, to break a lifetime of  
friendship.

I would like to be in the garden like newly opening bud  
And there wearing out my garments but keeping my good  
reputation

Whispering hidden secrets to the passing breeze  
Or hearing the secret of love from the nightingale  
Do not hesitate in kissing the lips of the beloved  
Otherwise you will find yourself biting lips and gnawing your  
hands in regret

Value this moment's opportunity for talk and discussions  
Since once you pass this parting of ways, there will be no chance  
to reach each other again.

## Recorded Music

AHS Unity Choir perform an arrangement of  
*Wayfaring Stranger*, directed by Molly Newton



## Reading from the Epistle of St Paul to the Romans, Chapter 8

Read by Valerie Foote

If God is for us, who can ever be against us? <sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who dares accuse us, whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself is on our side. <sup>34</sup> Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us.

<sup>35</sup> Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

<sup>37</sup> Never! Despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Homily

The Revd Nancy Eckersley

## Piano Music

Clair De Lune, *Debussy* performed by Kate Newton

## Prayers

The Revd Nancy Eckersley

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.

## Reflection

JS. Bach, Cello Suite No.1 in G-major, "Prelude" performed by Jacqueline du Pré (Recorded 1962)





**Hymn**  
*Lord of the dance*

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.

*chorus*  
*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*

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.

*chorus*

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 on high,  
And they left me there on a Cross to die.

*chorus*

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.

*chorus*

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.

*chorus*



### **Prayer of Commendation**

The Revd Adam Romanis

Haleh, go forth upon your journey from this world,  
in the name of God almighty who created you;  
in the name of Jesus Christ who died for love of you;  
in the name of God's Spirit, the breath of all the living;  
in communion with all the faithful, all the blessed,  
aided by angels and archangels, and all the heavenly host.  
May your portion this day be in peace, and your dwelling the  
paradise of God.

### **Dismissal of the Congregation**

Only close family will remain at the church for the burial.  
Everyone else, please proceed to the Deramore Arms  
which is waiting to welcome you.

### **Music whilst congregation depart**

Edith Piaf, *Non Je Ne Regrette Rien*



### **Haleh's favourite music**

Scan the QR code to listen to a playlist of Haleh's favourite music on Spotify. The songs will be playing at the Deramore Arms after the service.



### **Donations to Macmillan**

Macmillan were a huge support to the whole family during Haleh's last few weeks. If you would like to support their work, scan the QR code to make a donation to Macmillan in memory of Haleh.  
[www.donation.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.donation.macmillan.org.uk)



### **Donations to St Paul's Heslington Church**

To make a donation for Heslington Church, please place your donation in the plate at door.





**Haleh Afshar**  
**21 May 1944 – 12 May 2022**



***“Though she be but little, she is fierce.”***  
(from Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*)

