

A Service to Celebrate the Life of
Reverend Ann Davis

16th December 1943 - 18th March 2021



Upper Stratton Baptist Church

12.00pm on Wednesday 7th April 2021

Conducted by Reverend Simon Govier

MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

By Revd. Ruth Ann Davis

(A very brief extract as Ann wrote it)

I shall never cease to be grateful to our young next-door neighbour who invited me to go to Sunday School with her at USBC (Upper Stratton Baptist Church) when I was about 3½ years old, and to the minister, leaders and Sunday School teachers who so faithfully taught and showed me Jesus's love in my formative years.

Sunday April 7th, 1957 was the most important day in my life, when I committed my life to Jesus, my Lord and my Saviour. I was baptised 6 months later and came into membership of USBC.

Later, Ann writes:

My turning point was Sunday 7th April 1957 - a young people's Sunday at USBC when John Gilmore was the speaker. After the evening Service some of the YP's gathering in the back Hall (the new "Sunday School" only opened in September 1955) - it was there I made a very specific commitment to Christ.

John 1 vv 12 -13 Yet to all who receive Him, to those who believed in His name he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent nor human decision or a husband's will, but of God.

These verses were precious to me (and I was given a booklet to help me understand more - unfortunately long ago mislaid). *From that moment on Jesus was my Saviour and friend.* Someone very special in my life. I wanted to know more and remember reading through St John's Gospel. The following Sunday was a Baptismal Service I knew I too wanted to be baptised - but said nothing

until Rev Maycock approached me (he had been sat next to me when I made my commitment)

Eventually I attended Baptismal Classes on my own at the Manse where we followed a book by Townley Lord called “The Great Decision” and although I did find it difficult to understand I was keen to get baptised. This happened on Sunday 27th October 1957 again I was the only candidate, but it was a wonderful time (we didn’t have to give our testimonies at that time).

Two special hymns “O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end” and “Just as I am without one plea - O lamb of God I come” were sung at that service. The following Sunday 3rd November 1957 I was received into Church Membership at the Communion Service (my first experience of Communion as unless you were baptised you were not able to attend communion even as an observer).

I continued at Headlands - where with other young Christians we formed a Christian Union and met regularly to pray. We also held “squashes” in people’s homes where colleagues began Christian Endeavour. Christian Endeavour also became important at USBC. I helped with Junior Christian Endeavour for a while and when the Leader died suddenly became joint leader with Ann B.

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

“Nimrod” from Elgar’s Enigma Variations

WORDS OF WELCOME

Reverend Simon Govier

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Psalm 139: read by Cathy Butcher

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand - when I awake, I am still with you. If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

(NIV-UK)

HYMN

Great is Thy faithfulness

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 forever wilt be.

Refrain:

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 springtime 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!

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.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

TRIBUTES

Offered on behalf of the church family by
Reverend David Blandford – A Eulogy
Reverend Simon Govier – Shared Memories

QUIET REFLECTION

A selection of photographs in memory of Ann will be displayed
to the music of “Just as I am” by Charlotte Elliott,
played and sung by Bill Eteson.

This hymn was sung at Ann's Baptismal Service at USBC on October 27th, 1957

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come! I come

2. Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot
To Thee whose blood can
cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fighting and fears within without
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind
Sight, riches, healing of the mind
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve
Because Thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

6. Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

7. Just as I am – of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and
height to prove
Here for season then above
O Lamb of God, I come

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PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

For Ann and prayers for her church family and friends
Rev David Blandford

BIBLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2
Read by Cathy Butcher

This was the reading at Ann's Ordination Service at USBC on August 10th 1968

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! (NRSV)

ADDRESS

'New Creation'

by Reverend Simon Govier

HYMN

O Jesus, I have promised

This hymn was sung at Ann's Baptismal Service at USBC on October 27th, 1957

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my guide.

Oh, let me feel Thee near me;
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
Oh, speak to reassure me,
To hasten, or control;
Oh, speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Oh, give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in Thy strength alone.
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my friend

John Bode: Words: Public Domain CCLI licence 383

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

DEPARTURE MUSIC **To God be the Glory** Fanny Crosby

Please join us at Kingsdown Crematorium for the Committal starting at 1.30pm

THE COMMITTAL

Will take place at Kingsdown Crematorium at 1.30pm

ENTRANCE MUSIC

“Nimrod” from Elgar’s Enigma Variations

WORDS OF WELCOME

BIBLE READING

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(NIV - UK)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

ACT OF COMMITTAL

Words of Commendation

CLOSING PRAYER

FINAL BLESSING

EXIT MUSIC
To God be the Glory
Fanny Crosby

It is planned to hold a Memorial Service at Upper Stratton Baptist Church later in the year so all of Ann's Church family and friends can celebrate her life and her Christian service and witness, not only at Upper Stratton but also during her long ministry at other churches in Brighton, London and Bristol.

There will be the opportunity at this service to make donations in memory of Anne towards Baptist Union Home Mission Fund and BMS World Mission



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