

Welcome and opening words – Rev. John Harley

Come into this sanctuary of peace
Come into this place of loss
Come into this space of companionship
Come into this house of memory
Come into this haven of hope
Come into this community of love

Welcome to Taunton Unitarian Chapel – a place of questioning, liberal worship for centuries – whether you have travelled for miles and miles or walked from just down the road, whether your journey was easy or hurried, or in rain or shine, we all gather for one purpose – to honour and celebrate the long, rich life of Eleanor. Let us now fully arrive and be present for this sacred ceremony. Let us be aware of those who can't be with us physically – may they be here among us in their spirit and friendship. A special welcome to Aunty Rosemary who has travelled quite a distance

Intuition

By Eleanor Dixon

Part of an address given on Women's Gifts in 1982

Hymn – Abide with me

Eleanor's biography and a few Unitarian reminiscences Read by Rev. John Harley

Reading: If I should die - Amy Cuckoo

Hymn – The Lords My Shepherd

Eulogy – Rob Davis

Prayers

Let us come together for a time of prayer and reflection

We find our sense of meaning in life from knowing one another, by facing life's challenges together, by forming into families and friendships - may the companionship we cherish from walking alongside Eleanor give us courage and wisdom for our future pathways and life events

Let us be mindful of those in all corners of the world who have lost loved ones in war and violence – may we all work towards justice and may the bread of life be shared equally

God of high tide and low tide

Our guide through all the seasons of living – autumn, winter, Spring, and summer

Spirit of life with us in the light and the dark of our experiences

The essence and core of every living creature, painted and imagined by centuries of poets and artists

Be with us in our loss and our joy

Show us what really matters in our too short journeys

Help us understand and accept life's challenges

And in retelling and revisiting the life of a loved one

May we become a little gentler and forgiving of one another and lighter in our footsteps on this glorious planet

Amen

The Lords 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

Reading: Home – Penny Johns

Hymn – All things Bright and Beautiful

Thankyou to all the family for entrusting me to hold this ceremony – it is a great honour to give thanks for a such a well known and loved Unitarian in the Western Union – and I bring greetings from Bridport Unitarians

I offer you some blessings to finish

Blessing

Closing words and Blessing

Out of life comes death

And out of death, life

Out of the young, the old

And out of the old, the young

Out of waiting, sleep

And out of sleep, waiting

Let the horizon of our minds reach out to the great family here on earth with us – those who have lived before – may memories of them inspire us to lead fuller, deeper lives with integrity and hope and may our vision help to craft future generations forever more.

And a blessing for all of us...

Between the dawn and dusk of our being

Let us be brave and loving

In our little passage through the light

Let us sustain and forward the human venture

In gentleness, in service and in thought

by Carl Seaburg

Closing Music Air on a G String – J.S.Bach