

For Margaret



Today we come before God to spend time celebrating Margaret's life, where we will be offered a glimpse of God, God seen in the burning bush and sunlit field of wheat, in a moment of beauty in the face of some who was devoted to God and knew God in her heart, especially when she sang her gospel.

In John's gospel Jesus is preparing disciples before he departs and speaks words of encouragement to them. Let not your hearts be troubled. I'm going to prepare a place for you. Do not be troubled as there are many dwelling places where I'm going, and I will return for you to take you with me so you can be with me and God in this place. We believe Jesus prepared a place for Margaret in heaven and taken her this place, where she is with Jesus and God and all those who have gone before her, including Don her husband.

Jesus tells his disciples I am the way to God, believe in me and believe in God. Do not let your hearts be troubled. My peace I offer you, do not be afraid. This peace brings an overwhelming sense of trust in God, surrender and wholeness. That is God's Shalom. The sigh of peace.

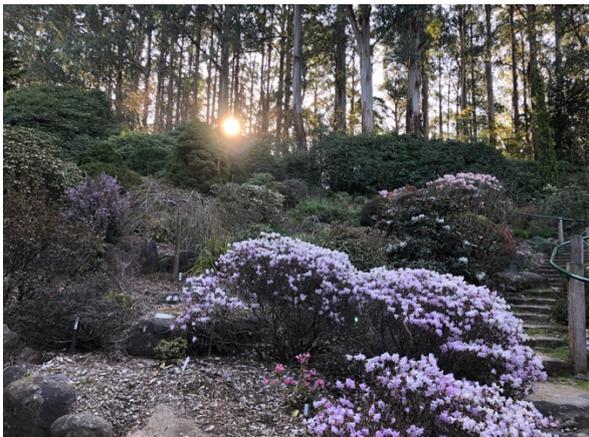
These are words of reassurance for us today. Words that Margaret would have said to us. She wouldn't want our hearts to be troubled. She was known to bring peace to others, was positive and had a calming effect upon others. Margaret would say be at peace.

Be reassured Margaret did not suffer when she passed away, she passed quickly, which is what she wanted and had a peaceful death. It was a blessing for Margaret to have her son Alastair living with her over the past few years, where they have shared precious time together.

Margaret had a fulfilled and exciting life. She did many things and went to many places. She loved her family, friends and church family and brought joy into their lives. She had gifts and some of her favourite gifts were her faith in God, creating a happy home for her family, and singing. Margaret had a good voice, perfect diction and had a lot to say. She was a great storyteller.

Through Margaret we've gained a glimpse of God. God who dwells in households and welcomes us to his household. God who comes to us in Jesus and teaches us how to live and love. Margaret was a faithful loving follower of Jesus and of her church family and has gone home to God and I'm sure God is saying: *Well done good and faithful servant.*

Margaret's family, friends and church family are giving thanks for her blessings and generosity. Margaret's family choose the reading from Proverbs because it speaks of who she was and of her love for her home. It speaks of her virtues as a good wife and mother and how she was virtuous, wise, valiant and capable, independent and confident. She was a kind person and never said an unkind word against anyone.



Margaret loved her garden and gardening. This image is from the National Rhododendron garden at sunset

As we say goodbye to Margaret, we peacefully accept she has gone to join the household of God and has begun a new journey.

Loved ones are left behind and are grieving and it's not going to be easy for them, especially for Alastair tomorrow. Please hold him in your prayers

Margaret would say to Alistair and all those who love her, *'do not let your hearts be troubled, do not fear, accept God's peace and be still and know God is near. Sing loudly, celebrate life and live it to the full and embrace one another with kindness and love.'*