



**WILLENHALL FREE CHURCH
SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE
SUNDAY 29 MAY 2022**

Good morning and welcome to this special special when we will be thinking about the Queen, I will be asking various members of the congregation to read prayers and quotes made by the Queen regarding her faith.

Graham Kendrick has written a song for the Jubilee called Rise up and serve, let us watch the video.

So let us begin by singing How great Thou Art followed by Amazing Grace.

We gather together to worship God
and in thanksgiving for the seventy years of faithful service of
our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth.

We give thanks for her example of faithfulness
to God and to her people,
and pray God's blessing on her
that she may continue to fulfil the promises she has made with
generosity and joy.

QUOTES FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH

"I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for his steadfast love. I have indeed seen his faithfulness."

Queen Elizabeth, from her 1984 Christmas message.

'Above all, we must retain the child's readiness to forgive, with which we are all born and which it is all too easy to lose as we grow older. Without it, divisions between families, communities and nations remain unbridgeable. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to live up to the standards of behaviour and tolerance which we are so eager to teach them.... We should work to heal old wounds and to abandon prejudice and suspicion.'

'Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families; it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities. It is in forgiveness that we feel the power of God's love.'

"This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son 'to serve, not to be served'. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer this Christmas Day that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others. The carol, In The Bleak Midwinter, ends by asking a question of all of us who know the Christmas story, of how God gave himself to us in humble service: 'What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part'. The carol gives the answer: 'Yet what I can I give him – give my heart'. (Christmas message, 2012)

Let us sing King of Kings Majesty, as we know that the Queen serves the living God.

More quotes from Queen Elizabeth

‘I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God...I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.’ — Queen Elizabeth, 2002

Queen Elizabeth, from her 1984 Christmas message.

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Let us pray

Gracious God, we give you thanks
for the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,
and for the example of loving and faithful service
which she has shown among us.

Help us to follow her example of dedication
and to commit our lives to you and to one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us sing Majesty

We continue with more quotes from the Queen

"To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example." (Christmas message, 2000)

"It is true that the world has had to confront moments of darkness this year, but the Gospel of John contains a verse of great hope, often read at Christmas carol services: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it'... Despite being displaced and persecuted throughout his short life, Christ's unchanging message was not one of revenge or violence but simply that we should love one another." (Christmas message, 2015)

"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none." (Christmas message, 2014)

John then gave a short talk based on the objects that the Queen was given on her coronation and how they relate to the Christian faith, a verse that sums up the objects and the Queen's own service to God can be found in Micah 6:8

8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

These are the objects that John used



This sword, given to the new queen, actually has a broken tip. It was broken on purpose, to symbolise mercy. In fact, it has a special name: Curtana, The Sword of Mercy. The broken tip reminds the Queen that she must not be cruel, but be merciful. She must find ways to bring peace not hardship in her judgements.

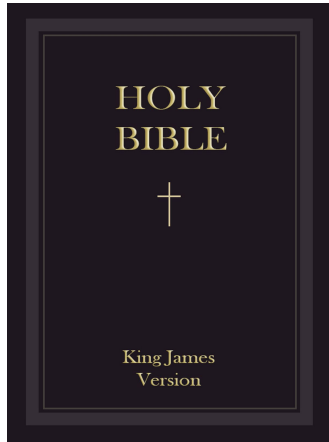


The sceptre with an orb and a cross on top – symbolises the rule of Jesus Christ over the earth. The monarch holding this sceptre, signifies that she is a servant of an even greater monarch, Christ.



Rod of Equity and Mercy – symbolises mercy and equity. The sceptre is topped with a dove, a symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit.

What does equity mean? the quality of being fair and impartial.



A Bible – symbolises wisdom. The monarch is guided by the Word of God.

At the coronation the Archbishop asked: Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel?

Elizabeth replied All this I promise to do

This is a picture of the Queen receiving her Bible at her coronation.

The following taken from the order of service

Following the oath, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland presented the Queen with the bible.

V. The Presenting of the Holy Bible

When the Queen is again seated, the Archbishop shall go to her Chair; and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, receiving the Bible from the Dean of Westminster, shall bring it to the Queen and present it to her, the Archbishop saying these words:

Our gracious Queen:
to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God
as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes,
we present you with this Book,
the most valuable thing that this world affords.

And the Moderator shall continue:
Here is Wisdom;
This is the royal Law;
These are the lively Oracles of God.



Thank you for coming today we will close with a prayer then sing Shine Jesus Shine.

Great God, our Father,
whose Son Jesus is the king of kings,
we thank you for Queen Elizabeth II.
At this special time of her Platinum Jubilee, we ask that
you give her strength and protection.
Please also bring her love, joy and peace as she does what
you ask her to do
and looks after us, her people.
Give us a good time as we have fun together doing these
special jubilee activities.
Through Jesus Christ

Jude 24-25 (NKJV)

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.