



A celebration of the life of



Rita Hitchens

18th January 1957 - 10th September 2023

Pattern Church Swindon, Friday 6th October at 1pm

ENTRY MUSIC
You're Gonna Be Okay, Bethal music

WELCOME
Rev. Joel Sales

SONG
In Christ alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save

'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

READING

Desert Rose by Rita Hitchens

Read by Jamie Hitchens

(see back pages)

EULOGY

By David Hitchens

BIBLE READING

Matthew 13:45 NKJV

Read by Ryo Parish

*The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who,
when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he
had and bought it.*

SONG
Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine
You are forever mine

SERMON
Rev. Joel Sales

PERFORMANCE SONG
Goodness of God
performed by Lizzy Webb

PRAYER

EXIT MUSIC
The Afters - Well Done

REFRESHMENTS

Close family will travel to the crematorium for a short committal service. Everyone else is welcome to go straight upstairs for refreshments. Please do stay and chat, have something to eat and add your contributions to our memory table. Rita's family will be back to join you shortly.

DESERT ROSE
By Rita Hitchens

A country girl, a small young rose.
I dreamt I saw God's face,
I thought he called, come grow in me,
And showered down his grace.

I thought I'd caught a glimpse of love,
As pure as driven snow.
It's faithfulness burst forth in spring.
The rose began to grow.

I felt his breath on morning's breeze.
He smiled through summer's sun.
A place of peace and pure content,
Of laughter, joy and fun.

But I grew up and had to leave,
The garden of my dreams.
Up-rooted and re-potted,
The inner city beckoned me

Where was love's face in this dark place?
Was my true love a liar?
I chose, to turn away from him.
The red rose, now a brier.

That Rambler grew up tall and fast,
A strong, but thorny brier.
For she was one who had gained much,
But lost her heart's desire.

So things were not all, as they seemed.
Disease lurked in the sap.
It stopped the rose from rambling.
It's leaves fell in god's lap.

It caused the rose to call for help.
And seek loves lost embrace.
To turn away from worldly things,
And really seek his face.

He cut away the dead, wild wood
That dangled in disgrace
And named me Royal Heritage
And gave me pride of place.

And so I gave my heart to him.
My life's now back on track
I'd known him by my emptiness,
I'd known him by my lack.

I now know, that he'd been there
Among the lost, the poor.
I now know, he knocks, he knocks,
He knocks upon your door.

But our true loves' a Gentleman.
So perfect, free of sin.
He does not, will not force our hand.
You have to ask him in



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you for your love, support and kind messages during this time. Thank you to our kind volunteers who have helped with food, drink, music, flowers and many other things. We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful friends and church family supporting us. Thank you Jesus for carrying us through and being our firm foundation at this difficult time.

DONATIONS

Rita had a passion for Alpha and sharing the love & compassion of Jesus with others. She was involved in Alpha for many years, running courses at home, as well as helping in Prison. Even during the time she could no longer be involved in Alpha, she would give financially towards it. We would like to honour Rita's passion and generous spirit by taking donations towards Alpha & Prison Alpha. We are also looking into planting a tree in Rita's memory on or around her birthday. We have a donations box upstairs if you would like to give towards these things.