

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 13:45-46 (NKJV)

&

Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

Read by Ryo Parish

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.