

A Service of Thanksgiving to
Celebrate the Life of
Thelma Joy Fisk
“*Thel*”



8th April 1926 - 22nd February 2024

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Wagga Wagga
Thursday, 29th February 2024



Minister

Rev. Dr Matthew Purnell

Organist

Mrs Heather Lucas

Vocalist

Mrs Netty Aylward

Eulogy

Peter Fisk

Readers

Rick Dodd and Julie Brewis

Pallbearers

*David Piper, Rick Dodd, Terry Dodd,
Bruce McGruer, Tony Sturt and Andrew Piper*

Poem

“The Bridge That Lies Between”

There is a bridge that lies between
The earthly world we know so well
And the peaceful, perfect dwelling place
Of which the scriptures tell...
There our dear loved ones live forever
And what comfort it will mean
To know our memories will always be
The bridge that lies between.

Welcome, Scriptural Promises and Prayer for Faith

Hymn

“To God Be the Glory” (Rejoice 63, 3 verses)

To God be the glory! Great things He has done;
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son
who yielded His life an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
and give Him the glory, great things he has done.**

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord! ...

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see!

Praise the Lord! ...

Frances Jane Van Alstyne 1820-1915

Bible Reading

Proverbs 31:10-31 (Read by: Rick Dodd)

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.
She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
‘Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.’
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Honour her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

Refrain:

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Refrain:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!”

Refrain:

Eulogy
Peter Fisk

Prayer
Matthew Purnell

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

Bible Reading

John 14:1-7

Read by: Julie Brewis

[Jesus said,] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Sermon

Psalm 23 - Matthew Purnell

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness, For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me. All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Hymn

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie in pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill; for Thou art with me; and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me; and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

Benediction

Recessional Music

"Amazing Grace" by Susan Boyle

Thelma Joy Fisk (nee Piper)

Preferred to be called “just” Thel.

Born 8th April 1926 in Tumut, NSW.

The eldest child of five children to Frederick and Sylvia Piper (nee Day).

Completed high school at Tumut public and went on to Tafe NSW in later life.

Commenced work at Weeden’s General Store, Tumut, as a shop assistant.

Met and married Walter Henry Fisk in Tumut, in 1948, until he passed away on the 4th November 2007.

An exceptionally partnership, the right mix of two people with a special bond -
“One life - One Love - Everlasting”

Following marriage, they had numerous postings around country NSW, and eventually retired from Station Master, NSW Railway, Wagga Wagga in 1948, after Wal’s 43 years service and Thel’s 36 years of dedication.

Always very close to all family members, however especially close to Jean, who was not only a sister, but her best friend and confidante.

Thel enjoyed every interaction, gathering, visit and catchup with family (and friends) as well as travel and family holidays throughout Australia and overseas, especially with Jean, Keith and family.

Thel appreciated the simple things in life, was private, polite, petite and a caring person with a gentle nature, selfless putting others first but also could be strong willed and determined.

Always particular about her appearance, tidiness and cleanliness, taking pride in everything she undertook and would always strive to do the right thing by anyone with whom she came in contact. Would be embarrassed if anyone went out of their way to do something on her behalf.

Had quiet the sense of humour and a smile and was compassionate in all things, especially in her faith.

Active in the Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Fellowship Association, Presbyterian Women's Association, Church Flower Roster, The Haven Nursing Home Committee-Nan Roberts Ladies Auxiliary, Taught Sunday School, Meals on Wheels, Christmas International Shoe Box Appeal, Scouting Association, Wagga Wagga Base Hospital Auxiliary, Better Hearing Australia, Children's Far West Scheme, Charter member of Wollundry Ladies Probus Club.

Thel's interest included: Gardening, Floral art, Pressed flowers and Flower arranging-including Ikebana, Cooking (biscuits, Tarts and Slices), Sewing and knitting (100's of pairs of booties), Tai Chi, Enjoyed fine china crockery, Involved in Walking groups, Social tennis in her younger days and keen letter writer and got a lot of enjoyment from watching Rugby League.

Always the bright light in a dark room, Thel was not one to have a fuss made over her and has asked that this celebration be a simple and light hearted event.

So, please remember all the good times and the memories we have created as family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances.



Graveside Service Tumut Lawn Cemetery



Pallbearing Music

“Here I Am Lord” by Robert Kochis

Welcome

Glen Scott

Opening Prayer

Sentence of Scripture

John 11:25-26

Eulogy

Read by Peter Fisk

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Sentence of Scripture

John 3:16

Committal

Benediction

Closing Music

“Eagles Wings” by Michael Crawford and “The Lord Is My Shepherd”



Poem

“To Those I Love And Those Who Love Me”

When I am gone, release me, let me go. I have so many things to see and do
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears, Be happy that we had so many good years.

I gave you my love, you can only guess. How much you gave me in happiness
I thank God for the love we each have shown, But now it's time I traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must, Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a while that we must part So bless the memories within your heart.

I will not be far away, for life goes on. so if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near, And if you listen with your heart, then
you will hear. All my love around you, soft and clear.

Then, when you must come this way alone, I'll greet you with a smile and a
“Welcome Home”

It is with sincere gratitude that Thel's family thank you for your attendance today, your kindness, support and expressions of sympathy. Your thoughtfulness has been a great source of strength and comfort.

We extend an invitation to all to join us for light refreshments, which will be provided after this service in St Andrew's Church Hall Wagga Wagga.

The committal service will be held in the Tumut Lawn Cemetery, Capper Street, commencing at 2.00pm.

Following the committal service, light refreshments will be held in the Anglican Church Hall, 3 River Street, Tumut from 2.30pm

