ORDER OF SERVICE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Theodora Baker



BORN
24th April 1927

PROMOTED TO GLORY
14th October 2026

Service to be held on
17th October 2026
St. Thomas' Church
Free School Street, Kolkata
10:00 AM IST

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

— Lamentations 3:22–23



ORDER OF SERVICE

Introduction (Minister)

We are here today to give thanks to God for the life of Theodora Baker and to affirm the Christian conviction that while death is the end of human life, it marks a new beginning in our relationship with God. We are also here to share the sorrow of those who mourn, and to offer them our love and support. Let us hear the word of Scripture, that we may all face the future with hope.

Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life; those who believe in me, though they die, Yet shall they live; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. John 11.25,26

Hymn – Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks, because he's given

Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong',

Let the poor say 'I am rich',

Because of what the Lord has done for us;

and now let the weak say 'I am strong',

Let the poor say 'I am rich',

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks…

Prayers (Minister)

Let us pray:

Lord of our lives, as we come together with a sense of common loss, draw us closer to each other in faith and love, that our fear may be dispelled, our loneliness eased and our hurt healed. Help us, O God, to emerge from these days, looking ahead with courage and hope and walking by faith in the light of your love; through Christ our risen Lord.

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, your love for us is everlasting. You alone can turn the shadow of death into the brightness of the morning light. By the power of the Holy Spirit, come to us in our darkness and distress with the light and peace of your presence. Speak to us now through your holy word, that our faith may be strengthened and our hope sustained; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn – The Lord's My Shepherd – Students from DGH

The Reading: John 14. 1-6, 18, 19, 27 – Roshan Jolliffe

Jesus said, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

'And you know the way where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one come to the Father, but by me.

'I will not leave you desolate; I will come with you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. 'Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

Tributes

- Dr. Bernard Lyndoh, Chairman - Board of Management, Dr Graham's Homes
- Mr. Neil Monteiro, Principal, Dr Graham's Homes
- Mrs. Pauline Singh, Board Member, Dr Graham's Homes
- Jens Larsen (who looks after Sally Larsen, Aunty Baker's younger sister in Denmark)
- Mr. David Offerman, Aunty Baker's nephew in Australia
- Mrs. Colleen Oehme & Mr Michael Oehme – Former teachers, DGH
- Mr. Shane Calvert, Former Chairman, Board of Management, DGH
- Ms. Nannette Nayyar, Student Welfare Officer, Dr Graham's Homes
- Miss Delicia Ravel, God Daughter of Aunty Baker
- Church Member

Homily:

Affirmation of Faith [To be said by all standing]

O, Christ, you are the King of Glory, The eternal Son of the Father. You overcame the sting of death, and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at God's right hand in glory. We believe that you will come and be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints. To glory everlasting.

Hymn (Offering will be collected)

1 Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.

Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3 I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

4 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Prayers

Let us pray:

All glory and honour, thanks and praise, be to you, eternal God, our Father. In your great love for the world, you gave your Son to be our Saviour; to live our life, to know our joy and pain, and to die our death. We praise you for raising Him from the dead, and for receiving Him at your right hand in glory. With your church in every generation, we rejoice that He has conquered sin and death for us, and opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers. For this assurance of our new life in Christ, and for the great company of the faithful whom you have received into your eternal joy, all praise and thanks be given to you, our God, forever and ever.

Let us entrust our sister in Christ, Theodora Baker to the mercy of God our Maker and Redeemer.

Heavenly Father, by your mighty power you have given us new life in Jesus Christ. We entrust Theodora Baker to your merciful keeping, with sure faith in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who died and was raised again to save us, and is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory forever. Amen.

Gracious God, we thank you now that you have received Theodora Baker by baptism into the family of your church on earth, and granted her the gift of eternal life. She ate the bread of life and drank from the cup of salvation, and gave herself in love and service to Christ. Amen

Let us pray for those who mourn:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort; deal graciously with those who mourn, that casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for ourselves:

Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and the grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth. Enable us to acknowledge and repent of our sins; and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son, in the way that leads us to the fullness of your Son, in the way that leads to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Those present may pay their last respects)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Acknowledgements – Elena Rai

(Those present may pay their last respects)

(The funeral cortege leaves for Tollygunge Crematorium)

SERVICE AT TOLLYGUNGE CREMATORIUM

Scripture Sentences

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, so great is his faithfulness. Lamentations 3.22,23

Those who are in Christ are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself. 2 Corinthians 5.17,18

Jesus said: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest; For I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11.28,29

Scripture Reading: John 6.37, 39-40

The Lord Jesus Christ says: “Everything that the Father gives me will come to me and anyone who comes to me will never drive away. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should loose nothing of all that He has given me, but raise it up in the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

The Committal

Now we have entrusted Theodora Baker to God’s merciful keeping and we now commit her body to be burned; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died, was buried, and was raised again for us. To Him be glory forever and ever.

The Lord Jesus Christ says, anyone who hears My word and believes Him Who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life. John 5.24

Almighty God, grant that we, with all those who have believed in you, may be united in the full knowledge of your love and in the unclouded vision of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ you have given us a true faith and a sure hope. Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days, that we may live as those who

firmly believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to eternal life; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

The Dismissal with the Blessing

Rest eternal grant to Theodora Baker, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.





Theodora Baker

A life remembered with love