

MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

TO THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD
A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE AND SERVICES OF
PROF. P. JOEL CHRISTOPHER
HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANT BIOLOGY AND PLANT
BIOTECHNOLOGY

HELD ON FRIDAY, 18th JULY 2008 AT 12.40 p.m. IN THE ANDERSON
HALL

Call to worship (All standing)

We have come together in the presence of Almighty God to offer unto Him through Jesus Christ, our thanksgiving and to lay before Him the sorrows of our hearts and to remember our departed friend Prof, P. Joel Christopher.

In thankfulness for all he had been by nature and by grace, and for his services rendered to the community, let us keep a moment of silence.

Prayer

O Lord our God, through whose love we have our being and in whose presence is eternal life, in this solemn hour we remember before Thee, Prof. Joel Christopher whose life in this world claims our love, affection, admiration, respect and gratitude and whom thou hast taken to eternity. Be present in our midst in a special way that our worship may lead us to comfort and solace and that it might be accepted in thy sight, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn (All standing)

1. How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds
 In a believer's ear!
 It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
 And drives away his fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
 And calms the troubled breast; 'Tis manna
 to the hungry soul, And to the weary rest.
3. Dear Name, the rock on which I build,
 My shield and hiding-place
 My never-failing treasury filled
 With boundless stores of grace!

4. Jesus, my Shepherd, Saviour, Friend;
My Prophet, Priest, and King;
My Lord, my life, my way, my end
Accept the praise I bring.
5. Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.
6. Till then, I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath; And
may the music of Thy Name
Refresh my soul in death.

Congregation may please be seated.

Tributes:

1. Prof. H.K.P. Devadoss
2. Dr (Mrs) Jannet
3. Dr K. Joshua

Scripture Reading (All seated): John 14:1-6

Litany (All seated)

Calling to remembrance all Thy mercies to us we thank Thee, O, Lord, for the life of Thy servant Prof. Joel Christopher for the encouragement of his example and the strength of his fellowship and the leadership they gave as outstanding member of our College community.

WE PRAISE THEE, O GOD, AND BLESS THY HOLY NAME

For the grace which was given to him, for the courage of his conviction and the meticulousness of his work, and for the true faith and sure hope in which he lived and died.

WE PRAISE THEE, O GOD, AND BLESS THY HOLY NAME

That we may hold him in continual remembrance, and the inspiration of their wisdom, leadership and fellowship may rest upon our earthly days, and that we may be prepared to follow him in his upward way.

WE BESEECH THEE TO HEAR US O GOD.

O Thou before whose face the generations rise and pass away, we commend ourselves to thee, praying that in the presence of death we may be brought to a deeper understanding of the issues of this life and to a lowly recognition of its appointed end. Keep us in unbroken fellowship with thee and our fellow beings;

enrich us evermore in those things over which death has no dominion and bring us at last with all Thy saints to the rest that remainest for Thy people: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn (All standing)

1. The King of love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never; I
nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.
2. Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth, And where
the verdant pastures grow With food
celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me And on
his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me; **Thy rod**
and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before
to guide me.

Benediction (All Standing)

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth. 'Blessed indeed' says the spirit, 'that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them. (Rev. 14:13)

We commit you unto God's gracious mercy and protection. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for ever more.

Amen.