



Mariana Nesbitt

14 APRIL 1945 - 18 JULY 2026

CHRIST CHURCH SOMERSET WEST

Thanksgiving Service 31 July 2026 - Reverend Gavin Millard

Order of Service

Welcome & Prayer	Rev. Gavin Millard
Hymn	Before the Throne of God Above
Bible Reading	Psalm 103 - Renee Hindley
Tributes	Beth Burke Bronwen Struwig
Bible Reading	Job 13:20 - 14:17 - Rev. Gavin Millard
Sermon	Rev. Gavin Millard
Prayer	Jannie Theunissen
Hymn	Come, O Fount of Every Blessing
Benediction	Rev. Gavin Millard





Before The Throne Of God Above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I AM
The King of glory and of grace
One with Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

Come O Fount Of Every Blessing

Come, O fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise:
songs of God's abundant treasure,
sung by angel tongues above,
songs that tell the boundless measure
of my Lord's unchanging love!

I remember God's great mercy:
by his help I've safely come;
and I know he will not fail me,
but will surely bring me home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger
wandering far away from God,
and, to rescue me from danger,
shed for me his precious blood.

Through God's grace I am his debtor-
daily I this thought renew!
Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love!
Take my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it from your courts above!



Mariana Nesbitt was born in Cape Town on 14th April 1945 and grew up in Camps Bay and Green Point. She matriculated at Ellerslie High School for Girls, did teacher training at the Cape Technical College and taught commercial subjects at Observatory Girls' High before proceeding with God's Call to Japan, and studying for 3 years at the Bible Institute of South Africa.

Jim and Mariana were married in 1970, and left for Japan with OMF International in 1972 where they did language study for 2 years. James was born in Sapporo during language study, and Beth later in Cape Town. Two terms of ministry followed in Sapporo, Japan. Then Jim was asked to be an International director of OMF in Singapore. Mariana's illness caused a return home after 2 years. She later taught at various educational institutions, and also started a language tutoring business.

A clear call from God caused them to return to OMF Japan after 11 years in South Africa. Mariana did relationship evangelism, taught many Bible studies and started an English International Church. Her talent as a silk artist allowed her to teach/gossip the Gospel and also to present 4 evangelistic exhibitions. Her friends in Japan were many and varied.

Her interest in theology and Japanese culture resulted in London University Diploma in Theology, followed by a B.Th (UNISA) and M.Th (SATS) - contextualising a Christian answer to Japanese ancestor practices. She has published 4 books on Missiology, all about Japan. They are available on Amazon & Goodreads.

Mariana enjoyed her retirement, painting, friends and books. She especially enjoyed the lovely house God gave them and was grateful for His provision for them in all things for so many years. God is faithful.

