

Closing prayer - Jannie Theunissen

O Lord who alone gives life

And in your own timing and way and wisdom, takes life

For you know our our frame, you remember that we are dust.

And how are we not also reminded on this occasion how fleeting life is. For even though we are comemorating a long and rich and extraordinary life this morning, even Mariana's days were like grass;

she flourished like a flower of the field;

and then your wind passed over her, and she is gone,

and her place is empty.

But Lord, your throne is firmly established in the heavens,

and your kingdom rules over all.

Your steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear you,

and there is the legacy of your righteousness to children's children, according to your promise.

With our sister going ahead of us, we are also reminded that we were not designed for this broken world.

Help us to remember Lord, that Mariana's life was redeemed from the pit. Lord Jesus, you paid for her life with your own blood. You have not treated her as her sins deserve. As far as the east is from the west, so far have your removed her transgressions from her. And she is safe and welcome in your presence.

Holy Spirit, you have wonderfully regenerated her Spirit so that she was crowned from a young age with your unfading love and mercy to this day.

You had compassion on her like a loving father and have now also regenerated her body and healed her of all her ailments and diseases and her youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Already we miss her sorely, but she is eternally safe and satisfied in your presence.

While she was on loan to us, you have made your daughter a blessing. Through the many gifts and talents you have given her.

Blessing many with her art and creativity, using her intellect to study and teach your Word, using her linguistic and anthropological insights to take a shot at the strong man of Shintoism.

You gave her curiosity and courage and a daring spirit and none of it was wasted. How we thank you Lord for her gifts.

We thank you Spirit for shaping and beautifying her character. What a blessing it was to us. To see such an accomplished woman, unwavering in her stand for the truth and justice and yet so ready to admit it when she was wrong. Someone who has so many academic qualifications and life experience across continents and yet still eager to learn and teachable.



We thank you Lord for Mariana's faithfulness to You, to Jim and her family, to her confession and her calling. For her dedication and energy and love for the Japanese people. There are people on the other side of the world who worship and thank you as a result. Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

LORD, your Word reminded us this morning that you work righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. When Mariana was with us, she reminded us of that too. We have lost a prophetic voice, a convicting example. Who else were as free as she was to tell the king that he is naked? Lord, who will you raise up to stand in this gap?

Heavenly Father, won't you comfort James and Beth and their families who have lost a mother and a granny. Hold Jim in your special embrace as he grieves and reminisce and adjusts to the reality without the one you have placed by his side 56 years ago. Thank you Lord, that in our tears we can remember that twinkle that we often saw in Mariana's eye that has now exploded in uncontainable joy in your presence.