



Mourning Elizabeth

**Christianity and the
Bible in the funeral of
Queen Elizabeth II**

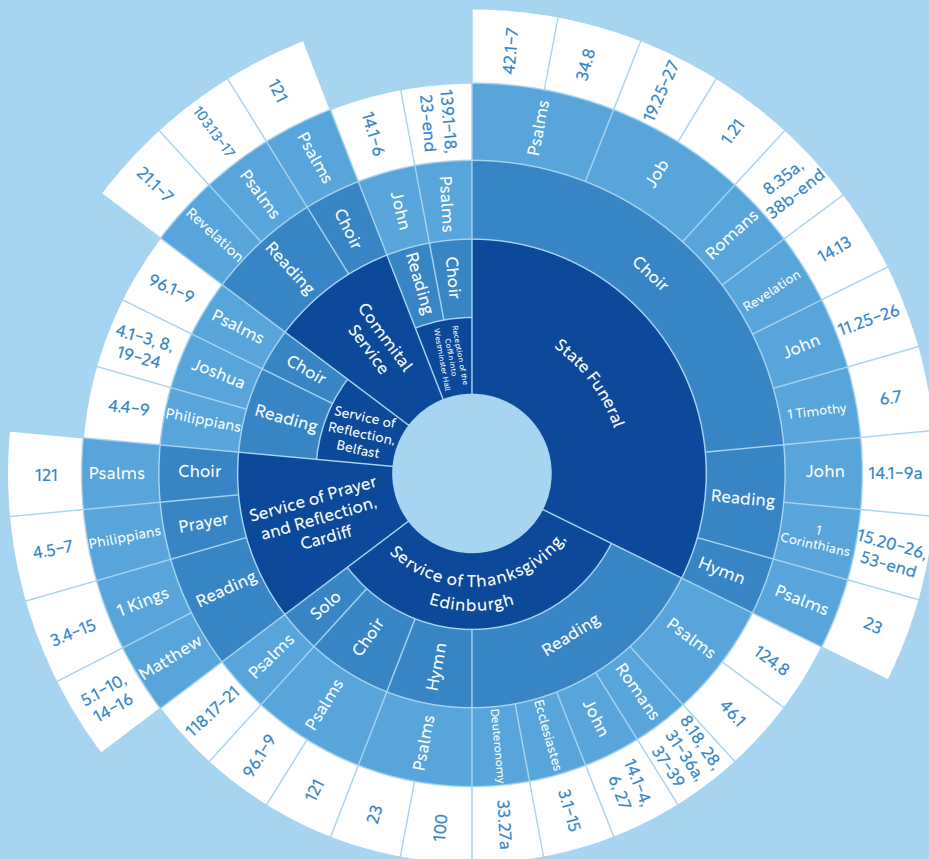
RHIANNON MCALEER & ROB BARWARD-SYMMONS

The funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

The funeral of Queen Elizabeth II marked a truly unique and unprecedented moment of public scripture in the modern age. While still intricately woven through the English language in phrases, imagery, and poetry, the Bible has become increasingly seen as a private document, one for Christians to use within their own communities and in their private lives, and with little to say to our wider society at large. In events of the funeral and mourning period, Scripture was spoken by politicians, sung by world class musicians and ordinary people alike, prayed by congregations, and chosen by a Queen. Transmitted around the

world, the Bible was given a global platform to speak on behalf of the nation. In the following pages we explore how a public increasingly at a distance from the Bible in everyday life received these words, but here we explore breath of scripture presentation through images.

If someone watched all of the official mourning events they would have heard 3,923 words of the Bible, forming 198 verses, drawn from 13 books of the Bible, in three languages – English, Welsh and Gaelic.



- Reading
- Choir
- Prayer
- Hymn
- Solo

Service of Reflection, Belfast (13/09/22)

- Joshua 41-3, 8, 19-24
- Philippians 4.4-9
- Psalm 96.1-9
- Matthew 6.9-13

Reception of the coffin into Westminster Hall (15/09/22)

- John 14.1-6
- Psalm 139.1-18, 23-end
- Matthew 6.9-13

Service of Prayer and Reflection, Cardiff (16/09/22)

- 1 Kings 3.4-15
- Matthew 5.1-10, 14-16
- Psalm 121
- Philippians 4.5-7
- Matthew 6.9-13

Service of Thanksgiving, Edinburgh (12/09/22)

- Deuteronomy 33.27a
- Ecclesiastes 3.1-15
- Romans 8.18, 28, 31-36a, 37-39
- John 14.1-4, 6, 27
- Psalm 124.8
- Psalm 46.1
- Psalm 121
- Psalm 116
- Matthew 6.9-13
- Psalm 100
- Psalm 23
- Psalm 118.17-21

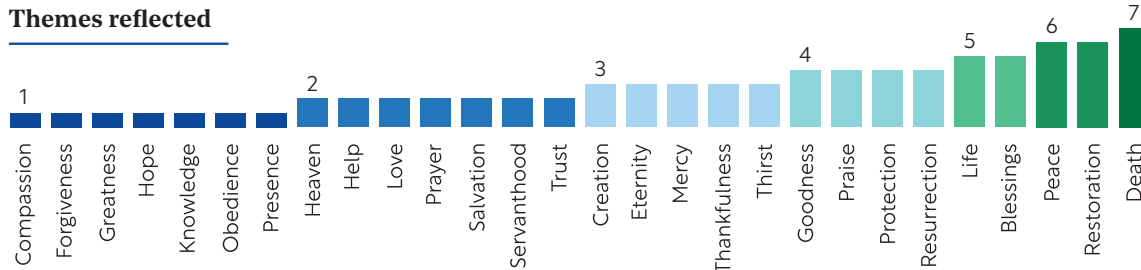
State Funeral (19/09/22)

- 1 Corinthians 15.20-26, 53-end
- John 14.1-9a
- John 11.25-26
- 1 Timothy 6.7
- Job 1.21
- Revelation 14.13
- Job 19.25-27
- Psalm 34.8
- Psalm 42.1-7
- Romans 8.35a, 38b-end
- Matthew 6.9-14
- Psalm 23

Committal Service (19/09/22)

- Psalm 103.13-17
- Revelation 21.1-7
- Psalm 121
- Matthew 6.9-13

Themes reflected



Our figures are drawn from how the Bible is presented in Order of Service documents where possible. Where this is not available we have used King James Version for Bible verses. All Scripture passages have been translated into English and are counted once.