St John’s Cathedral
Hong Kong

A Memorial Service
For

Professor Michael Wilkinson
1945 - 2019

Saturday 11th May 2019
10 am
The service is conducted by The Reverend Catherine Graham, Chaplain of St John’s Cathedral, Hong Kong.

The organ is played by Mr Jonathan Yip, Sub-Organist of St John’s Cathedral, Hong Kong.

The service is sung by The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Choir and directed by Mr Jeffrey Sham.

The piano is played by Ms Able Au and Ms Jamie Chan.

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Adagio for strings                     Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers and other electronic devices are switched off.
'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’  

John 11:25-26

We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6:7; Job 1:21b

THE GREETING

Priest  We are gathered together in the name of Jesus Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father. Grace and mercy be with you.

THE BIDDING

Priest  We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal. Today we come together to remember before God our brother Michael, to give thanks for his life and to comfort his family and friends, together with one another in our grief.

Priest  Father in heaven, we thank you because you made us in your own image and gave us gifts of body, mind and spirit. We thank you now for Michael and what he has meant to each of us. As we honour his memory make us more aware that you are the one from whom comes every perfect gift, including the gift of eternal life.

All  Amen.

THE HYMN
Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace.
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Tune: Slane
Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953)

THE COLLECT

Priest Merciful Father
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

All sit.

A FAMILY TRIBUTE
by Michael’s daughters Wendy and Emma
The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Choir sing:

MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE  
by Sebastian Temple and Michael Burkhardt

An extract from DR SEUSS  
Hinkle Horn Honkers  
read by Ella Pearson, Michael’s Granddaughter

TWO DOVES  
written and read by Joshua Saunders, Michael’s Grandson

Two doves,  
Over the meadows and stormy seas,  
no matter the weather,  
They're always together.

Two doves,  
in perfect harmony,  
now I see you soaring through clouds  
and dancing with the wind,  
They're always together.

Two doves,  
that colour our dreams,  
When I hear them coo I think of you,  
We're always together.
The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Choir sing:

**WIND BENEATH MY WINGS**
by Larry Henley & Jeff Sibar

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**A TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR FRIEND MICHAEL**
by Dr the Honourable Sir David Li
Pro-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong

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**A TRIBUTE FROM THE FACULTY OF LAW**
by Professor Johannes M M Chan SC (Hon)

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**MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-8
read by Mr Julian Stargardt
A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist in its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Choir sing:

PANIS ANGELICUS
by Cesar Franck

THE GOSPEL

ST JOHN’S GOSPEL 15:9-12
read by Ms Cleresa Wong
A reading from the Gospel according to St John

Jesus said, ‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.’

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

HOMILY
The Reverend Catherine Graham

THE PRAYERS
Led by Professor Albert H Y Chen

Let us first remain silent for a few moments as in the quietness we remember Michael, giving thanks for all that he has meant to us in the past, and for all that he will go on meaning to us in the future.
Loving God in your wisdom and grace you have given us so much joy through the lives of your departed servants. We thank you for them, and for our memories of them.

Especially today we thank you for Michael.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

We praise you for your goodness and mercy that followed Michael all the days of his life, and for the faithfulness in the tasks to which you called him especially in the fields of law, education and the example he set his family, friends, colleagues and students by his love for them.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father we thank you that for Michael the sufferings and tribulations of this life are now over, and death is now past, and we pray that you will bring us, with them to the joy of your perfect kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Father we pray for those who mourn at this time, remembering especially his daughters Wendy and Emma; Pea, Nick, Ella, Joshua, Emily and Jessica; all members of Michael's family, colleagues and close friends, all those for whom the loss of a loved one has left a great emptiness in their lives, which this life can never fill.

Grant them the comfort of your peace, and give to them that assurance which knows there is nothing in life or death that can
separate us from those whom we love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

We say together:

All Father in heaven,
we give you thanks for your servant Michael,
we praise you as we recollect his life and cherish his memory.
We bless you that in bearing your image
he brought light to our lives;
for we have seen
in his friendship reflections of your compassion
in his integrity demonstrations of your goodness
in his faithfulness glimpses of eternal love.
Grant to each of us beloved and bereft,
the grace to follow his good example
so that we with Michael may come to your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory
to him be praise and glory for all eternity.
Amen.

Let us pray as our Saviour has taught us.

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

All stand.

THE COMMENDATION

Priest  God our Father
        We thank you that you have made each of us
        in your own image,
        and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you.
        We thank you for Michael,
        the time we shared with him,
        the good we saw in him,
        the loved we shared with him,
        the love we received from him.
        Now give us courage and strength,
        to leave him in your care,
        confident in your promise of eternal life
        Through Jesus Christ our lord

All  Amen.

THE HYMN

I vow to thee my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there’s another country I’ve heard of long ago
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King,
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride her suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds shall increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Tune: Thaxted adapted from The Planets
Words: Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1918)
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

All remain standing.

THE DISMISSAL

THE PEACE

Priest    Jesus said: Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.
           Not as the world gives give I unto you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

           The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

All       And also with you.
THE BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm on your face,
The rain fall softly on your fields;
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The members of the congregation are asked to remain standing while the chaplain leads Michael’s close family from the cathedral as

The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Choir sing:

THE LAW ANTHEM

Here tall it stands in proud tradition,
Adherence to values true,
Here nurtures hope and aspirations
For fairness and law to rule.
With unity, diversity, fraternal care within us,
We look to far horizons,
And challenges we pursue.

And ever proud are we,
Law Faculty,
Your spirit is ours to prove,
And as custodians of Justice,
Bring honour and glory to you.

Music by Winnie Tam (LLB 1983)      Lyrics by Julianne Doe (LLB 1984)

MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE:

Nimrod from Enigma Variations                             Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

A reception will be held at the Foreign Correspondents Club immediately after this service. All are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Michael Wilkinson Memorial Fund of The University of Hong Kong, which will commemorate and continue Michael’s contribution to the law and legal education through future generations of law students.

Donation Details may be found here:
https://www.law.hku.hk/remembermw/
FAREWELL MY FRIENDS
By Rabindranath Tagore

It was beautiful
As long as it lasted
The journey of my life.
I have no regrets
Whatsoever, save
The pain I’ll leave behind.

Those dear hearts
Who love and care...
And the strings pulling
At the heart and soul...
The strong arms
That held me up
When my own strength
Let me down.

At every turning of my life
I came across
Good friends,
Friends who stood by me
Even when the time raced by.

Farewell, farewell
My friends,
I smile and
Bid you goodbye.
No, shed no tears,
For I need them not,
All I need is your smile.

If you feel sad,
Do think of me
For that’s what I’ll like.
When you live in the hearts
Of those you love,
Remember then, you never die.

THE OBITUARY

Professor Michael Wilkinson (1945-2019), our beloved colleague and friend, peacefully passed away on the evening of 20 February 2019 in the company of his most beloved and his daughter.

Professor Wilkinson joined the School of Law (as the Faculty of Law then was) of The University of Hong Kong in 1983, and taught several generations of law students the PCLL subjects of Conveyancing, Civil Procedure, Professional Ethics, and Advocacy. He had published extensively in these fields.

Professor Wilkinson served as Associate Dean of our Faculty of Law in 1990-91, Head of the Department of Professional Legal Education in 1991-93 and 1996-2005, and as Chairman of the Board of Studies of the Faculty of Law in 2006-2015. He had also served as the University’s Public Orator, a member of the Hong Kong Law Reform Commission, and a member of many committees of the Law Society of Hong Kong. In 2018, Professor Wilkinson became the second Honorary Member for Life admitted by the Law Society of Hong Kong in
its history, an honour bestowed upon him in recognition of his tremendous contribution to legal education and to the legal field in Hong Kong.

Professor Wilkinson was a law graduate of Cambridge University and a barrister of the Inner Temple. He started his academic career at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge, where Andrew Li, subsequently the first Chief Justice of the HKSAR, was a student in his tutorials. He subsequently taught for 13 years in Africa – first in Uganda and then in Malawi, before joining The University of Hong Kong in 1983, where he became the longest-serving teacher in the Faculty of Law (1983-2019).

In his interview with Hong Kong Lawyer last year, Professor Wilkinson said: “I have probably taught 60 to 70 percent of all lawyers in Hong Kong. And the best part of my work is interacting with my students.” As regards his service on many Law Society committees, he said: “The friendship, the warmth, the kindness and the tolerance of my ignorance that I have received from my fellow committee members has been so great.”

Professor Wilkinson, who courageously fought against cancer in the last few years, delivered his last lecture on 28 January 2019. Throughout the course of his illness, he carried on teaching, marking and scholarly writing just the same. He told us that it was the teaching and the students that kept him strong.

We are heartbroken by Michael’s passing. Michael will always be remembered dearly as a great teacher, a wonderful friend and a great mentor. His wisdom, sense of humour and charisma will be very much missed.

Words may fail us, but Michael's friendship, collegiality, passion for teaching, love for legal scholarship, care and concern for his colleagues, students and friends, and selfless devotion to the common good of our law school and our legal community, will be in our hearts always.

Faculty of Law
The University of Hong Kong

Copyright Acknowledgements

This order of service has been prepared by the Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist, Hong Kong from Common Worship Pastoral Services: © The Archbishops Council 2000.

The hymn: Lord of all hopefulness
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Tune: Slane
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