A rainbow appeared over Windsor castle late on Thursday afternoon, Queen Elizabeth’s favourite home. A double rainbow also appeared over Buckingham Palace. It seems appropriate somehow. Perhaps the heavens themselves wanted to mark the passing of this amazing woman. Her public announcements showed she had a genuine faith in Jesus.

“Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life, and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ’s example helps me see the value of [**doing small things with great love**](https://www.patheos.com/blogs/adrianwarnock/2022/09/dream-small-take-little-steps-to-help-others/)”

Queen Elizabeth 2016 Christmas Speech

There is no doubt that Queen Elizabeth lived an extraordinary life. It was of course one marked by huge privilege. She came to the throne by an accident of birth, and the abdication of her uncle and untimely death of her father. She was wealthy, privileged. But by those who met her she was universally described to be a humble, charming, engaging human being – both by world leaders and ordinary people alike. It was her sense of being a chosen vessel of God to serve the nations of this world that probably led to that humility and life long sense of duty. She was not just our Queen but also the head of the commonwealth, and loved all over the world. She is surely the last major public figure with a living memory of the Second World War, in which she served as a mechanic.

Queen Elizabeth has brought stability to our sense of nationhood. She brought continuity over all these decades, and has given confidential advice to fifteen prime ministers from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss (who she appointed just 48 hours before she died). She has been our servant and God’s and most of all has shown us Christ.

So we pray in these days to her God and ours:

Hear our thanks for Elizabeth, our late Queen,
Blessed by grace,
Resolute in service,
Modest in person.
For the years of her reign,
And the sweep of history through which she provided
Both anchor and springboard.
We thank You for her dedication to this nation and Commonwealth,
And for all the rich gifts of wisdom, kindness and inclusion
She brought to her long decades.

We give You thanks for lives her life touched,
For the radiance of her smile
And the encouragement of her words.
We thank You for the sparkle of her humour
That eased the tensions she encountered,
And for the determination of her life
To see its duties through.