**Brody Buck** (13 days)

Special Order of Service .05.19

**vv from Mark 10** 31.5.19

Some years ago, we took a holiday on the Northumberland coast. Most of our time was spent on the beach, but on one of the days, we decided to visit Kielder Water. Kielder Water is a huge man-made reservoir. The weather was perfect and there was a sense of peace and calm in the air. The water, too, was completely smooth. And I simply couldn’t resist picking up a pebble and throwing it into the middle of the lake. We then just stood and watched as the ripples slowly spread out across the lake, eventually reaching the shore on every side.

For me, that picture says a lot about why we are here today. At the heart of this service is Brody, just as the pebble was the centre of the pool. The ripples are ripples of love that surround Brody, who has brought us all together and who has made such an impression on everyone here. Brody is where everything begins.

The first ripple of love is Naomi and Michael who, from the moment Naomi knew she was carrying Brody, surrounded him with love. I imagine many of you can remember first hearing Naomi and Michael’s news that they were expecting Brody. In their voices, there would have been love – love that everyone who heard the news would have noticed at once. Brody, too, would have known what it was to be surrounded by love. Love is more than words; and he would have felt and known that love

The next ripple would be Marie and Phil, Bev and Mark, who were to become grandparents to Brody, and also other members of their families, including Naomi’s aunt, Gemma, who together looked forward to Brody’s birth and no doubt started to anticipate it in many different ways.

The next circle would include friends, neighbours, mates and acquaintances who also shared in Naomi and Michael’s news. At each level, there would be a sense of joy and anticipation, and love both for the new baby and for his parents. Gradually, the ripples spread and embraced so many lives, including everyone here today.

When you think about it, that pool only exists because of the shore, or bank, that contains it. Without the shore, there would simply be no lake. I believe that shore to be God himself. For the most part, we are quite unaware of him, just as we tend to forget just how important the shore is in containing the lake. But that doesn’t make him any less real, just because we are not aware of him for much of the time. And the ripples that touch each of our lives eventually touch the shore as our loving Father welcomes Brody into his everlasting protection and care.

As we stood by the shore, watching the ripples come toward us, we suddenly realised that many of them hit the bank and then bounced back towards the centre. God knows something of the pain you may well experience at this time, and his love reaches out to you to bring you peace and comfort. Had we waited by the lake a few more minutes, I’m sure we would have seen the ripples return to the centre where they first began, completing that circle of love for Brody; a reminder of the promise of eternal life which we often call heaven.

When I came in to church last night to set up the slideshow and watched it through, I could sense just how much Brody had touched so many lives in his short, thirteen days. You can see love on the faces of everyone who met him. He was a light that filled everyone’s heart. From Brody, just like the pebble in the pond, emanated light and love to all he met. St Matthew talks of a light on a hillside giving light to all around, and Brody has done that for so many people – a light to lighten the darkness as one of the gospels puts it, and, in the words of St John, a light that can never be extinguished.

In one of his letters, St Paul said that there are just three things that last for ever – faith, hope and love, and then he went on to say that the greatest of them all is love. Today, it will be your love for one another, and especially for Naomi and Michael, that will make the difference. And in the fullness of time, it will be your love for Brody, too, that will play an equally important part.

Today, we give thanks for the ways in which Brody touched each of your lives for good; and we pray that God will help you and be with you in the days and months to come. **Amen**