

A Service of Thanksgiving

for the Life of

Sandra “Sandy” Farley Graves

March 13, 1954 – October 14, 2024



**Monday, November 4, 2024
11:00 a.m.**

**Chapel of the Holy Spirit
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia**

The Burial of the Dead

*In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer,
please observe silence upon entering the nave.*

Prelude Music

Simple Gifts
Brother James' Air
True North
O Waly Waly (The gift of love)
The Road Home

arr. Joseph M. Martin
arr. Joseph M. Martin
Kavin Hoo
arr. Justin McCarthy
Joseph M. Martin

Opening Anthems

Please stand.

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
Who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
We are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on
are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

A period of silence is kept.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister, Sandy. We thank you for giving her to us, her family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The First Reading Matthew 5:1-14

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
 ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 ‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 ‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
 ‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 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 do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, 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 on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Homily

The Rev. John D. Rohrs

Music for Meditation My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Malcolm Hines, vocalist

The Prayers of the People

You may stand or kneel.

Prayer Book, page 480

Officiant In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love. **Amen**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Amen.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust Sandy to your never-failing love; receive her into the arms of your mercy, and remember her according to the favor you bear for your people. **Amen**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, she may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom. **Amen**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all your saints, to receive the crown of life which you promise to all who share in the victory of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen** *A period of silence is kept.*

Officiant

Father of all, we pray to you for Sandy, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to her eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

The Commendation

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
**where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Sandy. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Music for Meditation I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Malcolm Hines, vocalist

Blessing

Paraphrase of Henri Frederic Amiel

Officiant Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



The family invites all gathered to a reception in the Large Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

A private family committal preceded this service in the Garden of the Holy Spirit at St. Stephen's.



Participants

The Rev. John D. Rohrs, *Officiant*; Earl Roney, *Crucifer and Reader*; Aaron Luster, *Reader*; Diana Chou, *Organist*; Malcolm Hines, *Vocalist*; Bennett Funeral Home, *Arrangements*

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