

**A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Susan Hope News**

May 12, 1967 – February 5, 2025



**Thursday, March 20, 2025
1:30 p.m.**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia**

The Burial of the Dead: Rite Two

In order to prepare for worship, please observe silence upon entering the nave.

Prelude My faith looks up to thee

Opening Anthems *Please stand as you are able.*

The Book of Common Prayer, page 491

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.

Hymn 376 Joyful, joyful we adore thee *Sung by all.*

Hymn to Joy

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister, Susan. 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 Isaiah 25:6-9

Read by Geoff McVeigh

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,

and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Following the reading, the reader says
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Poem of Meditation One at Rest (author unknown)

Read by Sallie Eissler

Think of me as one at rest,
for me you should not weep.
I have no pain, no troubled thoughts
for I am just asleep.
The living, thinking me that was
is now forever still
and life goes on without me now,
as time forever will.

And in my fleeting lifespan,
as time went rushing by
I found some time to hesitate,
to laugh, to love, to cry.
Matters it now if time began,
if time will ever cease?
I was here, I used it all,
and now I am at peace.

If your heart is heavy now
because I've gone away,
dwell not long upon it, friend,
for none of us can stay.
Those of you who liked me,
I sincerely thank you all.
And those of you who loved me,
I thank you most of all.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Read by The Rev. John Rohrs

Reader 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 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.

Following the reading, the reader says
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



1. Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low trav - 'lers on the road.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
4. Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.

Homily

The Rev. John Rohrs

The Apostles' Creed

Please stand, as you are able.

Celebrant In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord;
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Remain standing.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

**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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

For our sister Susan., let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Susan, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Father of all, we pray to you for Susan, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. 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. All we 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, Susan. 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.**

The Blessing

Celebrant The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

Sung by all.

Michael Joncas



1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who a -
2. Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and
3. For to the an - gels God's giv - en a com - mand to



bide in his sha - dow for life, say to the Lord: "My
fam - ine will bring you no fear; un - der God's wings your
guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"
ref - uge with faith - ful - ness your shield.
bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain



"And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

Postlude

Ye Holy Angels Bright

*Please join family and friends at the Country Club of Virginia (Westhampton)
for a reception immediately following the service.*



Clergy: The Rev. John D. Rohrs
Crucifer: Barbara Massey
Organist: Brent te Velde
Readers: Geoff McVeigh and Sallie Eissler

The Rite Stuff, Copyright©1998 by Church Publishing Incorporated, All rights reserved; from Copyright©1977; used by permission. Adapted from *Common Worship*, Copyright©The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006; All of the official *Common Worship* publications are being published by Church House Publishing., All applicable music reprinted under OneLicense #A-710911.

