

A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Rosemary French Wood
March 24, 1935 – May 4, 2025



Thursday, May 29, 2025
10:30 a.m.

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

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 685 Rock of ages

Sung by all.

Toplady

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, Rosemary. 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 Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 *Please sit.*

Following the reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 *King James Version* Said in unison.

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; *

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

Following the reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel John 6:37-40

All standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Remembrance

Steve Frazer

Musical Interlude I'll fly away

The Apostles' Creed

Please stand

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

Officiant and People

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, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at 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 Lord's Prayer

Officiant and People

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.

The Prayers of the People

Prayer Book, page 497

- Leader* For our sister, Rosemary, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said,
"I am Resurrection and I am Life."
- Leader* Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Rosemary,
and dry the tears of those who weep.
- All* **Hear us, Lord.**
- Leader* You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.
- All* **Hear us, Lord.**
- Leader* You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.
- All* **Hear us, Lord.**
- Leader* You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.
- All* **Hear us, Lord.**
- Leader* Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship
with all your saints.
- All* **Hear us, Lord.**
- Leader* She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your
heavenly kingdom.
- All* **Hear us, Lord.**
- Leader* Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; let our faith be our consolation,
and eternal life our hope.
- A period of silence is kept.*
- Leader* Father of all, we pray to you for Rosemary, 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

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

Officiant 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.

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

Officiant Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Rosemary. 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.**

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

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 671 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound *Sung by all.*

New Britain

Postlude



Participants

Officiant: The Rev. Cate Anthony
Assisting Priest: The Rev. Bill Sachs
Musician: Brent te Velde

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