

**A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Patricia Carpenter Ruffin**

April 22, 1935 – July 17, 2025



**July 29, 2025
11:00 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.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord;
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Hymn 376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

Hymn to Joy

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

A period of silence is kept.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant, Pat, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit.

The First Reading Isaiah 61:1-3

Following the reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

The Book of Common Prayer, 473

Read in unison, seated.

The Second Reading John 5: 24-27

Following the reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. **Amen.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. **Amen.**

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

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

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy 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 Pat to thy never-failing love; receive her into the arms of thy mercy, and remember her according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. **Amen.**

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

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Father of all, we pray to you for Pat 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 thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal,
formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return.
For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying,
“Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”
All we go down to the dust;
yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Celebrant

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

Blessing

Celebrant The peace of God, which passeth 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.

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 562 Onward Christian Soldiers *Sung by all, standing as you are able.* *St. Gertrude*



Please join us for a reception in the Large Fellowship Hall immediately after the service.



Participants

Clergy: The Rev. John D. Rohrs, the Rev. William L. Sachs

Pall Bearers: Andy Gibson, Caden Gibson, Noah Ruffin, Sean Ruffin, Chris Turner, David Williams

Remembrance: Shelby Gibson

Crucifer: Barbara Massey

Organist: Diana Chou



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