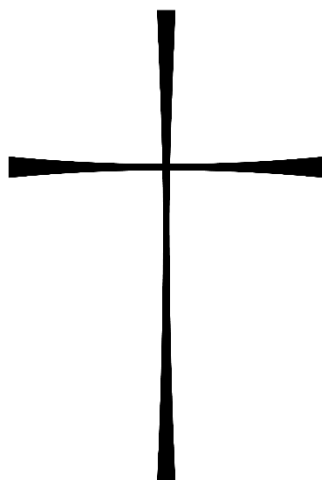


**A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Jennifer Fewell Gardner**

December 29, 1969 – May 14, 2026



**Tuesday, May 26, 2026
10:30 a.m.**

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

The Burial of the Dead

Prelude

Selected movements from Cello Suite No. 1, BWV 1007

J. S. Bach

Entrance Rite

Please stand.

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.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember Jennifer before you and thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your compassion, console those who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of Christ so that all may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered into the company of all your saints; by the power of your Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen.**

Remembrance Travis Gardner

Please sit.

Hymn 287 vv. 1-4 For all the saints *Sung by all, standing as able.*

Sine Nomine

All hymns are found in the blue book in your pew.

The Reading Proverbs 31:25-29

Please sit.

Barrie McDowell

Psalm 23

Read in unison.

King James Version

**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.**

Hymn 293 I sing a song of the saints of God *Sung by all, standing.*

Grand Isle

Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.

The Gospel Matthew 5:1-14

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the Gospel, the Deacon says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily The Reverend John Gardner

A period of silence is kept.

The Prayers of the People

Please stand.

Finnius Graham Gardner

Reader God, your will for us is abundant life; receive Jennifer now into the fullness of life in your presence.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader You know the thoughts of our hearts and our search for faith; shed the brightness of your light on Jennifer, who also sought understanding.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader You are greater than all our ideas and images of you; draw Jennifer into the mystery of your being.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader We know you as perfect Mercy and Love; welcome Jennifer in the grace of that love and mercy.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader We praise you as the giver of life; gather all who mourn into the hope of renewed life.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader The Church commends all who die to the care of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, so we pray for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, O Lord; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and gracious power, work in them the divine purpose of your perfect will.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A period of silence is held.

Reader May the Holy One, to whom all the desires of our hearts are known before we ask, hear our prayers for Jennifer, and for all who mourn, and grant us newness of life, and peace. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant May Christ the good shepherd bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People and Ministers greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Greetings

The Holy Communion

Music at the Offertory This little light of mine

arr. Claire Allen

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

Prayer Book, page 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country, where with Blessed Stephen; Blessed Mary, Mother of God; and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughter; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

Gracious God, nothing in death or life, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation can separate us from your love. We commend Jennifer into your loving care. Enfold her in the arms of your mercy. Bless her in her dying and in her rising again in you. Bless those whose hearts are filled with sadness, that they too may know the hope of resurrection; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing

Lord of the Dance

Simple Gifts

Unison G Em Bm Em

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar-i-see, but they
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame, the
 4 I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black; it's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high,

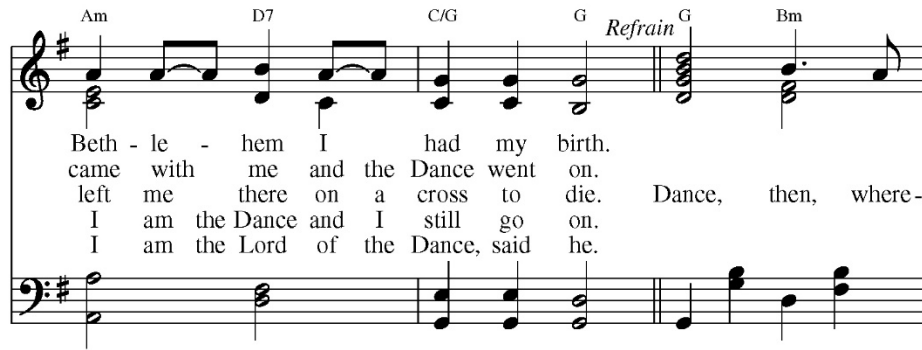
Am D7

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 would not dance and they would not fol-low me; I
 ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame; they
 hard to dance with the dev-il on your back; they
 I am the life that-'ll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll

G Em Bm Em

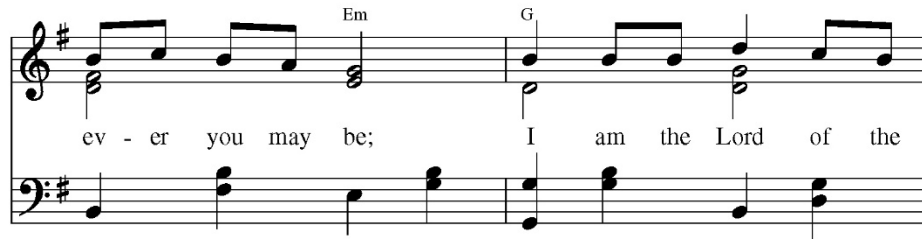
came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John; they
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high; and they
 bur-ied my bod-y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me;

Am D7 C/G G Refrain G Bm



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
came with me and the Dance went on.
left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, where -
I am the Dance and I still go on.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Em G



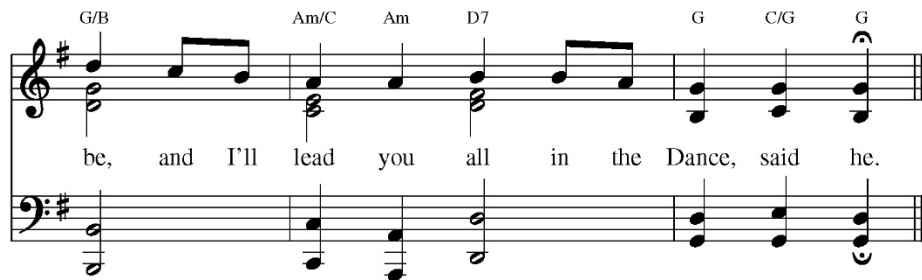
ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

Am/C D D7/C G C/G G/D D7/C



Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where - ev - er you may

G/B Am/C Am D7 G C/G G



be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Postlude

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

J. S. Bach

The family invite all the reception at BarWest, 5811 Grove Avenue, walkable from St. Stephen's,
one block east, on the corner of Grove Avenue and Maple Avenue
In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations to support **Bring It RVA**. Visit bringitRVA.org



PARTICIPANTS

REMEMBRANCE: Travis Gardner; READERS: Barrie McDowell, Finnius Graham Gardner;
MUSICIANS: Peter Greydanus, *cello*; Robert McCormick, *organ*; HOMILIST: The Rev. John Gardner; SUBDEACON, DEACON,
AND CELEBRANT: The Rev. Barbara Massey, the Rev. Cate Anthony, the Rev. John Jenkins



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