

**A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Sara Scott Hargrove**

January 2, 1934 – July 8, 2026



**Wednesday, July 29, 2026
2:00 p.m.**

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

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sara Scott Hargrove

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

Prelude

Opening Anthems

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.

Hymn to Joy

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

A period of silence is kept.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before thee this day our sister, Sara. We thank thee for giving her to us, her family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In thy 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 thy call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remembrances

Please sit.

Elisabeth Putney Mygatt and Sara Douglas Williamson

The First Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

Read by Katherine Williamson

Following each reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 103:1-13

Read by Thomas Williamson

The Gospel Reading John 14:23-29

Hymn 482 Lord of all hopefulness

Sung by all, standing.

Slane

Homily

The Rev. John D. Rohrs

The Apostles' Creed

Please stand.

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

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
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.

Led by Scott Putney

We thank thee, O God, for all the goodness and courage which have passed from the life of this thy servant, Sara, into the lives of others, and have left the world richer for her presence—for a life's task faithfully and honorably discharged; for good humor, gracious affection, and kindly generosity; for sadness met without surrender, and weakness endured without defeat; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Father of all, we pray to you for Sara, 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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.
After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.*

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Organ instrumental music

Diana Chou

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Prayer Book, page 364

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 in the heavens.

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 Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant 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 Breaking of the Bread *A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome to come forward to receive communion at the base of the steps. The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at both stations. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

After Communion

Celebrant Let us pray. *Please stand.*

All Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant, Sara. 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.**

The Blessing

Paraphrase of Henri Frederic Amiel

Celebrant 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.**

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 473 Lift high the cross

Sung by all.

Crucifer

The family invites you to a reception in the Large Fellowship Hall immediately after the service.

The family will meet you there.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial gift to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church or The Virginia Home.



Participants

Clergy

The Rev. John D. Rohrs, the Rev. William S. Stanley, The Rev. Judy Webb Davis

Subdeacon

Barbara Massey

Crucifer

Harrison Garner Mygatt

Chalice Bearers

Charlie Caldwell, Bob Dibble, Scott Finn, Scott Green

Organist

Diana Chou

Vocalists

Annabelle Mills, Abby Outlaw, Virginia Tilley

Remembrances

Elisabeth Putney Mygatt, Sara Douglas Williamson

Readers

Katherine Williamson, Thomas Williamson

Intercessor

Scott Putney

Some final words of Scriptural blessing from Sara herself:

“May Christ, the son of God, be manifest in you,
that your lives may be a light to the world and a blessing to God.”

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.”



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