



# St. John's Episcopal Church

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey,  
St. John's welcomes you.

## The Burial of the Dead and Celebration of the Holy Eucharist



### In Thanksgiving for the Life of Helen Abdelnour West

September 5, 1934 – April 13, 2024

*Please turn off all cell phones before the service.  
BCP refers to the Book of Common Prayer.  
Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.*

4 May, 2024  
Half past eleven in the morning

## THE ENTRANCE RITE

### Voluntary

#### Tower Bells

*Rung by Alan Asker and Jordan Mackenzie*

#### Immortal, invisible, God only wise (Stand) ..... Hymn 423

#### The Burial Anthem

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 (Remain standing)

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

*The Celebrant says*

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus  
Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to  
light: Grant that your servant Helen, being raised with him,  
may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his  
eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and  
reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Psalm 106:1-5

*Read by Marni Jay Dewes*

- 1 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord \*  
or show forth all his praise?
- 3 Happy are those who act with justice \*  
and always do what is right!
- 4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have  
for your people, \*  
and visit me with your saving help;
- 5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness of your people, \*  
that I may glory with your inheritance.

#### A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

*Read by Candy Abdelnour Williams*

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For  
you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but  
you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba!  
Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that  
we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God  
and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so  
that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the  
sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with  
the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with  
eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to  
condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,  
who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.  
Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or  
distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or  
sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors  
through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither  
death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor  
things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything  
else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of  
God in Christ Jesus our Lord. [Romans 8:14-19, 34-25, 37-39]

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

#### Morning has broken (Stand) ..... Hymn 8

#### The Gospel (Remain standing)

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.  
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” [John 10:11-16]

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Eulogy** ..... **Lyle & Sharon Rolfes**

**The Homily** ..... **The Rev. Lonnie Lacy**

**The Apostles’ Creed** (*Stand*)

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 Prayers of the People** (*Kneel*)

For our sister Helen, 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 Helen, 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.*

Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the  
Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.

*Hear us, Lord.*

She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a  
place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*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.

*The Celebrant concludes*

Father of all, we pray to you for Helen, 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 & Announcements**

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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory Hymn 671** (*Sung by all*) ..... **Amazing grace!**

**Eucharistic Prayer A** (*Stand*) ..... **BCP 361**

**The Communion**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at St. John’s.  
Approach the ministers in a double line in the center aisle and receive the  
bread in your hands, palms facing up. You may sip the wine directly  
from the common cup, or you may allow the minister to dip the bread in  
the cup for you. If you do not wish to receive for any reason, fold your  
arms across your chest, and the priest will give you a blessing instead.*

**Communion Anthem** ..... **His eye is on the sparrow**  
Charles Gabriel

**Communion Hymns**..... **325, 383**

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant says*

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Helen 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.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Helen 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 Helen. 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**

*The Celebrant may bless the people.*

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.  
*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

**O God, our help in ages past** (*Stand*)..... **Hymn 680**

**Tower Bells**

*All are invited to greet the family immediately  
following the service in Alfriend Hall.*

# St. John’s Episcopal Church

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