

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Wednesday, August 11, 2021
7 pm

ST. DUNSTAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Dunstan's. We are glad that you are here tonight, and that you have come to join with others in the community for a time of sacred remembering. During our Liturgy, four candles will be lit, with prayers, followed by a ritual of remembrance and the naming of those we have lost in the last 18 months.

If you are watching at home, you may wish to gather a candle or two to join in the candle lighting.

Our service begins with a time reflection.

Reflection Music

At the sound of the singing bowl, all stand.

Priest **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.

Collect *The people remain standing*

Priest The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: We come this night knowing that, even as we are separated physically, we are gathered together through your Holy Spirit. Meet us in our sadness, be present to us in our grief. Accept our prayers on behalf of your servants who have died during this time of pandemic and grant them entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; may our prayers bring a measure of comfort to those who mourn through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 662 Abide with me
verses 1, 2, and 4

Eventide

The First Reading

Romans 8:14-17, 34-35, 37-39

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

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.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A Song of Living

Amelia Josephine Burr

Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

I have sent up my gladness on wings, to be lost in the blue of the sky.
I have run and leaped with the rain, I have taken the wind to my breast.
My cheeks like a drowsy child to the face of the earth I have pressed.
Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

I have kissed young love on the lips, I have heard his song to the end,
I have struck my hand like a seal in the loyal hand of a friend.
I have known the peace of heaven, the comfort of work done well.
I have longed for death in the darkness and risen alive out of hell.
Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

I gave a share of my soul to the world, when and where my course is run.
I know that another shall finish the task I surely must leave undone.
I know that no flower, nor flint was in vain on the path I trod.
As one looks on a face through a window, through life I have looked on God,
Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die.

Music for Reflection

The Second Reading

1 John 21:3-4

Reader A reading from the first book of John

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

The Reverend Laurel Cooté

A Litany of Remembrance

Priest Let us pray together in our grief and sorrow
as we acknowledge the losses in our lives.

Every culture, every faith tradition, has ways of celebrating and sanctifying new life, of marking the coming of age, of witnessing to and blessing marriages, of mourning the dead. During this time, we are finding new ways. We will light four candles tonight, each with particular meaning, but each as a sign that God is working a new thing in our midst tonight; a new way of honoring the lives of those we love who have died during this time of pandemic. The flames remind us that God is always in our midst no matter how we gather or give voice to our prayers. God gathers us as one.

Cantor O God, I call to you, come to me now,

People O hear my voice when I cry to you.

We light this first candle in remembrance of those who have died. We give thanks for their lives with us, for their witness to God's love. We allow ourselves to feel the deep sorrow of death, remembering that Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus. We especially remember our family and friends who have died while we have been unable to gather to mourn.

Cantor O God, I call to you, come to me now,

People O hear my voice when I cry to you.

We light a candle this night for those of us who are in grief and sadness from the death of a loved one. We acknowledge the pain that comes from not being able to gather with family and friends as we normally would to mourn. We give thanks for those who have reached out to share memories and moments of how our loved ones have touched the lives of those around them. We acknowledge how their death leaves an emptiness in our own hearts.

Cantor O God, I call to you, come to me now,

People O hear my voice when I cry to you.

We light a candle this night for the over 614,000 people who have died from COVID-19, and those who have died at the hand of violence. We especially remember those who have died alone. We give thanks for the doctors, nurses, EMT's and support staff who cared for them in their illness.

Cantor O God, I call to you, come to me now,

People O hear my voice when I cry to you.

We light a candle to remember that God is with us, in our grief, in our sorrow, in our joy and in our laughter. No matter how isolated we may be, or feel, we are not alone. The power of the Holy Spirit connects us now and always. **Amen.**

Cantor O God, I call to you, come to me now,
People **O hear my voice when I cry to you.**

Naming Ritual

You are invited to settle in for a time of remembering and quiet meditation. Let us now remember those who have died while we have been unable to gather to mourn. For each beloved soul named, a candle will be lit, that our hearts may always be illuminated by their memory.

Mildred Annand

Margaret Bennett

Peggy Borsting

Don Carr

Clayton Clark

Michael Clark

Victoria Clark

Lee Collins

Marion Gamble

Dot Hansen

Merilyn Hobbs

Betty Holmgren

Monica Kronzer

Jan Langland

Donna Larson

Norm Nelson

Lawrence Reierson

Paul Rembert

Margi Stephenson

Dede White

We invite you now to come forward individually or as a family, to light and to place a candle to acknowledge any loss you may have experienced during this time of pandemic.

Remain seated.

Hymn 671 Amazing Grace

New Britain

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray the words Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Concluding Collect

Priest Let us Pray.

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. May the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwell deeply within us this night and always. **Amen.**

Song Go in Peace

Sam Baker

Go in peace
go in kindness
go in love
go in faith

Leave the day
the day behind us
day is done
go in grace

Let us go
into the dark
not afraid
not alone

Let us hope
by some good pleasure
safely to
arrive at home

You are welcome to remain in sanctuary for prayer or meditation.



WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.

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