



St. David's
Episcopal Church

— EST. 1715 —



*A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving
For the Life of*

Pamela Rinda Elters

May 14, 1954 – August 30, 2022

March 17, 2023

10:00am in the Chapel

Officiant and Preacher – The Rev. Elizabeth W. Colton
Organist – Dr. Elaine Sonnenberg-Whitelock

Prelude

“Air” from Orchestral Suite No. 3

J.S. Bach

Anthems

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.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Collect

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



1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:—
 *7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day; the
 *8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through
 thee— by faith before the world confessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;—
 saints triumphant rise in bright array; the
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host—
 Name, O— Jesus, be forever blessed.
 thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light.
 King of— glory passes on his way.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897) Music: *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The First Reading Isaiah 61:1-3

read by Becky Shych

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
 because the Lord has anointed me;
 he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
 to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives
 and release to the prisoners,
 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
 and the day of vengeance of our God,
 to comfort all who mourn,
 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

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

Psalm 23 (KJV) *read in unison.*

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.

The Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2

read by Joyce Brownmiller Krol

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

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

Unison or harmony

The musical score is written for unison or harmony in a single system. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord God, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in peace as prom - ised in your word; my eyes have seen the Sa - vior, Christ the Lord, pre - pared by you for all the world to see, to shine on na - tions trapped in dark - est night, the glo - ry of your peo - ple, and their light." The score ends with a double bar line.

Lord God, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in
peace as prom - ised in your word; my eyes have seen the
Sa - vior, Christ the Lord, pre - pared by you for all the
world to see, to shine on na - tions trapped in dark - est night,
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, and their light.

Words: Rae E. Whitney (b. 1927); para. of *The Song of Simeon*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Song 1*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

The Gospel Reading John 10:11-16

“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.

Reflection

Tim Rinda

Homily

The Rev. Elizabeth W. Colton

In assurance of eternal life, let us proclaim our faith and say:

The Apostles' Creed

**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 Lord's Prayer

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 Prayers

For our sister Pamela, 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 Pamela, 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.

Father of all, we pray to you for name, and for all those whom we love but no longer see. 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.**

Silence may be kept.

Commendation and Blessing

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

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 * 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

The Sending

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude



The Burial Office

A word about the burial service in the Episcopal Church. The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty 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 of creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief un-Christian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus Himself wept at the grave of His friend. So, while we rejoice that Pamela has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.