



PEACE

I leave with you;

My peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and

DO NOT BE AFRAID.

John 14:27

St. John's Church

July 16, 2023

WELCOME

We are so happy you are with us. Please add your voice and heart to the prayers. Help others find a place and greet the person next to you as we prepare to worship together. Please stand and sit as you are comfortable.

LIVING INTO YOUR DYING

The death of a friend, family member, member of the church, or even a stranger is a moment of pastoral ministry that comes with regularity in the life of our congregation. Our response to those moments comes in the central message of our faith: God continues to bring out new life from the loss and devastation of death. The death of a member of the human family (and that includes you) calls for the best of our ministry of compassion and care and the best of our ability to proclaim new life in the face of death.

We are an Easter people. The burial of the dead is an Easter liturgy because as God raises Jesus from the dead, we too shall be raised. Through both the burial rite and the pastoral rituals surrounding death and burial we acknowledge that we, the living, are on this journey toward the heart of the holy and undivided Trinity.

It is a journey we must prepare for. Indeed, there are theologians who claim all religious life is a preparation for the moment we die.

This Sunday, our liturgy, preaching and coffee hour presentations will be focused on end-of-life preparations that are spiritual and transcendent, as well as practical and hands-on.

Today's presentation: "Your Stuff - Before and After Death" with Jennifer Jensen, attorney.

ANOINTING

The practice of anointing people with oil is an ancient practice dating back to biblical times. Its chief functions have been to bring about healing or restoration of health to those that are sick or suffering and it is also used to consecrate or make holy a person or object.

Sacramental use of oil is an outward sign of God's active presence for healing. Anointing with oil may accompany prayers for healing and the laying on of hands when a person is suffering or ill, often when a person is in the hospital or confined otherwise.

As part of our Living into Your Dying series, **Susan McEvoy will offer anointing** to anyone who seeks this public gesture of community blessing for healing. You may approach her after receiving Communion.

RIVER OF LIFE

In many cultures, rivers are seen as symbols of life and fertility. They are often associated with birth, cleansing, and new beginnings. A river may also be seen as a powerful force that can connect us to the divine or be a gateway to other realms or dimensions. **Crossing a river can symbolize a spiritual transition** or passage from one stage of life or spiritual development to another.

Revelation 22:1 mentions the river of the water of life, and theologians say that this symbolizes eternal life. The illustration given by St. Paul that the river flows from the throne is symbolically associated with **eternal life that flows from God**.

The River Jordan holds great importance in biblical narratives. Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. The Israelites crossed it to enter the Promised Land. Because the Israelites made a difficult and hazardous journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, the Jordan can refer to **freedom from oppression, breakthrough, and deliverance**. The actual **crossing is the final step** of the journey, which is then complete.

The waters of the River Jordan are a frequent image in hymns and spirituals. Listen for this reference in our music these next weeks.

SOURCES

Texts for this service are from scripture and *The Book of Common Prayer* with these exceptions:

Gathering: *Enriching Our Worship* 3, ©2009, Church Pension Fund.

Confession: Tim Glatzer, based on Psalm 90 and adapted from a confession written by Rev. Mindi, rev-o-lution.org/

Prayers: Diana Anderson and Susan McEvoy, using portions from *Intercessory Prayers of the Faithful*, weconnect.com

Great Thanksgiving: adapted by Megan Nickles from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* and *Eucharistic Prayers* by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher.

MINISTERS

Sound	Steve Nickles
Greeter	Jim Morales
Worship Leader	Charlotte Patrick
Reader	Jim McEvoy
Preacher	Rob Koelling
Intercessor	Tim Glatzer
Presider	Megan Nickles
Communion Server	Laura Greathouse
Communion Server	Bobbi Tyrell
Communion Bread	Barb Morales
Coffee Hour	Cynthia & Martin Garhart

PRAYER CONCERNS

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Canada

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. John's, Jackson/Chapel of the Transfiguration

We believe that lifting up the names of the suffering brings healing and health regardless of our knowledge of their needs.

Hugh B. & Marge; Lee & Kelly; Hunter & Charlotte; Shirley & Deb; Richard & Jennifer; Tim & Lynnae; Robin & Mark; Charlie & Jane; Margie & Josey; Bobbi & Bentley; Bob & Charlotte; Ann & Martha; Brandon & Diedre; Rob R., Kathy E., Nelson, Tammy, Rob K., Bobby B., Larry, Alex, Irene, Nancy, Alan, Katy, Marlynn, Sue, Kahli, and Ron	Justin, Jacob, Patrick, Reece, Coleman, Bryce and Nathan who are serving in the military. Bennett who is living and studying in Japan. Josephine and Don who reside in care centers.
--	--

CELEBRATIONS

Birthday: Zeke Stice—19th, Bob Grover—22nd

Anniversary: Megan & Cameron Barker—21st

PRELUDE

“Hymne/Be Still My Soul,” Bronn Journey.

HYMN *Verses 1, 2*

1. My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need; The
2. When I walk through the shades of death, Your
3. The sure pro - vi - sions of my God At -

1. Lord God is his name. In pas - tures
2. pres - ence is my stay; One word of
3. tend me all my days; O may your

1. green he makes me feed, Be - side the liv - ing
2. your sup - port - ing breath Drives all my fears a -
3. house be my a - bode, And all my work be

1. stream. He brings my wan - d'ring
2. way. Your hand, in sight of a
3. praise! There would I find a

1. spir - it back, When I for - sake his ways;
2. all my foes, Does still my ta - ble spread;
3. set - tled rest, While oth - ers go and come,

1. And leads me for his mer - cy's
2. My cup with bless - ings o - ver -
3. No more a stran - ger nor a

1. sake, In paths of truth and grace.
2. flows, Your oil a - noints my head.
3. guest; But like a child at home.

Text: 86 86 D; based on Psalm 23; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: William Walker's *The Southern Harmony*, 1835.

GATHERING

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,
who formed us from the dust of the earth,
who by your breath gave us life,
we glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life,
who suffered death for all humanity,
rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life,
we praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life,
the comforter of all who sorrow,
our sure competence and everlasting hope,
we worship you.

To you, oh blessed Trinity, be glory and honor forever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins to God.

Loving God,

You have been our dwelling place.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are our God.

**Yet, we do not always live into the message of hope and salvation,
the promise of eternal life.**

We live lost in the temporary, ignoring your eternal love.

We live in ways that put ourselves and our own success above the needs of others.

We cling to our lives and comforts,

failing to seek first your kingdom and righteousness.

Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love

that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Forgive us our selfish ways and call us into the path of Christ,

who humbled himself and gave himself up for us on the cross,

so that death might be no more and that all can share

in the joy of salvation and in life unto the age,

through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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.

Amen and Amen!

CANTICLE OF SIMEON *We repeat the last phrase and then the first phrase to end.*

1. Lord, let your ser-vants go in peace;
2. Lord, let your ser-vants go in peace;
3. Lord, let your ser-vants go in peace;

we who so long have wait-ed.
we who were rent a - sund-er.
for you have kept your prom-ise.

Fear-ful with doubt, we still kept watch in the
Bi-ased and blind, we la - beled foes who were
With our own eyes we see sal - va - tion is

night.
friends.
won,
Now we see your light.
Now we make a - mends.
born in Christ, your Son.

Copyright © 2004 by GIA Publications, Inc. • All Rights Reserved

SCRIPTURE

Jesus said to his friends,
“You have pain now; but I will see you again,
and your hearts will rejoice and no one will take your joy from you.”

-John 16:22

A reading from ____.

After the reading

Word of God, word of salvation.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

PRAYERS

Strengthened by our hope that God can transform our goodbyes into the promise of new life, let us bring these prayers to our God of Comfort, saying:

As you meet us in the silence, **Holy One, hear us.**

The intercessor continues, closing with

God of comfort, you have given us the assurance that our goodbyes do not have to be the last word. Grow our faith in your promises, so that we may draw closer to you and to all whom you love. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray as Jesus taught.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet each other in the name of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

MUSIC

"Deep River," Odetta.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This is the day that you have made, the first day of the week,
when you created light out of darkness by the power of your word and spirit,
when you created life out of death, raising Jesus from the grave.

On this first day of the week, we await the coming of your new creation,
when we will be glad and rejoice forever singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, God of wonder, and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord.

We remember how he took a loaf of bread,

and when he had given thanks, he broke it

and gave it to his disciples, saying,

this is my body, which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

We remember how he took the cup after supper, saying,

this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

whenever you drink it, remember me.

As death came through Adam, resurrection has come through Christ.

Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God,

for in your conquest of death we see the destiny of every hope in you.

Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit,

that this bread and cup may become for us

the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ.

Come and stand among us and breathe on us your peace,

breathe on us your power, breathe on us your eternal life,

that all who labor, all who stumble, all who hunger, and all who fall

shall meet you in the breaking of the bread and be lifted up by your touch.

Hope and glory are our breath
for you have rolled away the stone of despair,
the stone of oppression, the stone of lament, the stone of grief,
the stone of death, the stone of sin, the stone of fear.
Shape your church to be your risen body:
make our scars beautiful like your scars,
make our lives life-giving like your life,
and make our communion holy with your Saints
until you come again and we eat with you in your Kingdom,
Creator, Redeemer, Spirit, ever one God.

AMEN.

The leader breaks the bread. Silence is kept.

He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

**May we who share these gifts
be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

COMMUNION

Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.

Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right. You may receive only bread or only wine. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.

MUSIC

“Fear Thou Not,” Josh Garrels.

“Poor Wayfaring Stranger,” Natalie Merchant.

“An Unclouded Day,” Audra Mae & The Forest Rangers.

THANKSGIVING

We stand.

Let us pray.

Loving God,

**We thank you that you have fed us
with the body and blood of Jesus Christ.**

**We pray that this sacrament may be for us a comfort in affliction,
and a sign of our inheritance in that place where there is no death,
neither sorrow nor crying,
but the joy of true homecoming,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

HYMN *We repeat verse 1*



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near, When my life is al - most gone,
near, And the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
hand. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dozey, 1899-1993
Tune: PRECIOUS LORD, 66 9 D; George N. Allen; arr. by Kelly Dobbs Mickus, b.1966
© 1938, Unichappell Music, Inc.

SENDING

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all;
and we are mortal formed of the earth, and to earth we shall return.
For so you ordained when you created us 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.
Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“I’ll Fly Away,” The Blind Boys Of Alabama.