



THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

Amelia White "Mimi" Booker

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

11:00 AM

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

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 principalities, 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.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. 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 one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

Book of Common Prayer, Page 507

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

RITE ONE

11:00 am – December 4, 2025

PRELUDE

SOLO Pie Jesu

Gabriel Fauré

Translation:

Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them eternal rest.

OPENING ANTHEMS

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 469

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



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re joice in thee.
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) Music: *Hymn to Joy* Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

THE COLLECT

BCP 469

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit..

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Mimi, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

Congregation seated

The First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-3

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 (read responsively by whole verse)

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- ² *My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.*
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- ⁴ *Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;*
- ⁵ The LORD himself watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- ⁶ *So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.*
- ⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- ⁸ *The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.*

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.*

Solo Amazing Grace

New Britain

The Gospel

John 14:1-6

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

THE TRIBUTES AND HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow

The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke

THE APOSTLES’ CREED *standing*

*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.*

SOLO The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP 480

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. *Amen.*

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. *Amen.*

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. *Amen.*

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. *Amen.*

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. *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.*

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. *Amen.*

Grant us grace to entrust Mimi to thy never-failing love; receive her into the arms of thy mercy, and remember her according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. *Amen.*

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, she may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE COMMENDATION

BCP 482

Celebrant: Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,

*People: where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

Celebrant: 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.

*People: Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

Celebrant: Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Mimi. 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

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

HYMN 688



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing;
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a bid - eth;



our help - er he a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing;
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos - ing;
the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sid - eth:



for still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are
dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his
let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may



great, and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
Name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
kill: God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546); tr. Frederick Henry Hedge (1805-1890); based on Psalm 46. Music: Martin Luther

POSTLUDE

*You are cordially invited to greet the family for a reception
in Sumners Hall immediately following the service.*

Clergy

The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke
The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow

Musicians

Steven A. Newberry, *organ*
Nancy Curtis, *soprano*

CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill, *Rector*
The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke, *Senior Vice Rector*
The Rev. John D. Sundara, *Vice Rector*
The Rev. Louise Samuelson, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Trent Pettit, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Libby Garfield, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Sutton Lowe, *Curate*
The Rev. Dr. Charles M. Stiernberg, *Deacon*

MUSIC AND WORSHIP STAFF

Steven A. Newberry, *Director of Music and Worship*
John Meier, *Associate Director of Music*
Anna Teagarden, *Associate Director of Music*
Grace Jackson, *Hancock Intern for Church Music*
Sarah Gividen, *Director of Modern Music*
Nick Gividen, *Associate Director of Modern Music*



THE CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE DIVINE
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST