



THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

*Meredith Jane Kraftson Stone*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

3:00 PM

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 TWO

---

3:00 pm – January 9, 2026

### PRELUDE

Nimrod, from *Enigma Variations*

Gabriel's Oboe

Clarinet Concerto in A Major - II. *Adagio*

The Peace May Be Exchanged

Edward Elgar

Ennio Morricone

W. A. Mozart

Dan Locklair

### OPENING ANTHEMS

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 491

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.

## HYMN 410



1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;  
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;  
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;



ran - somed, healed, re - stored for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:  
praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
in his hand he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.  
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847); Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880).

## THE COLLECTS

BCP 493

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

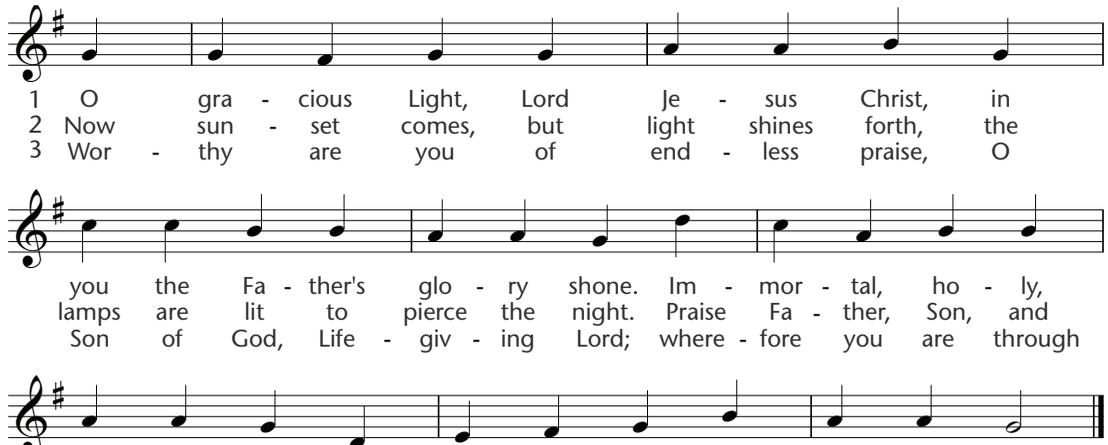
*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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 Meredith, 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.*

## Phos Hilaron (Hymn 25)



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O

you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.  
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.: tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585)

## THE LESSONS

*Congregation seated*

### The First Lesson

Isaiah 55:6-13

- <sup>6</sup> “Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- <sup>10</sup> “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it

<sup>12</sup> “For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

#### Psalm 146

*setting by Thomas Norris 1741-1790*

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul; while I live will I praise the LORD;  
yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God.

<sup>2</sup> O put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man;  
for there is no help in them.

<sup>3</sup> For when the breath of man goeth forth, he shall turn again to his earth,  
and then all his thoughts perish.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help,  
and whose hope is in the LORD his God:

<sup>5</sup> Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is;  
who keepeth his promise for ever;

<sup>6</sup> Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong;  
who feedeth the hungry.

- 7 The LORD looseth men out of prison;  
the LORD giveth sight to the blind.
- 8 The LORD helpeth them that are fallen;  
the LORD careth for the righteous.
- 9 The LORD careth for the strangers; he defendeth the fatherless and widow:  
as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.
- 10 The LORD thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore,  
and throughout all generations.

## The Second Lesson

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

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> 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!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> 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.

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

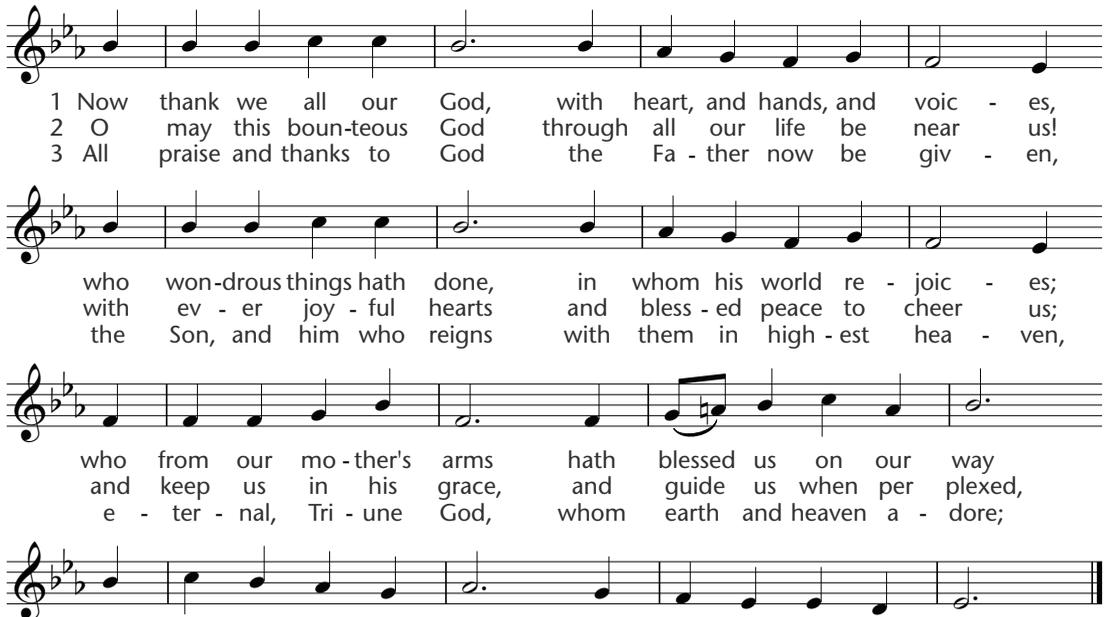
<sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or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

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

Hymn 397 *Congregation stands.*



1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voice - es,  
2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us!  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,  
who won-drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;  
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est hea - ven,  
who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way  
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per plexed,  
e - ter - nal, Tri - une God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;  
with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

Words: Martin Rinckart (1586-1649); Music: *Nun danket alle Gott*, Johann Crüger (1598-1662).

The Gospel

John 1:1-18

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
<sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.  
<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.  
<sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.  
<sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did

receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## THE TRIBUTES

Laurel Stevens

Constance Kraftson McDowell

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Louise Samuelson

## THE APOSTLES’ CREED *Congregation stands.*

BCP 496

*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.*

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 Meredith 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 PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People: And also with you.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

Canticle (*Collegium Regale*)

Herbert Howells 1892-1983

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

*People: We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS S-125

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

© 1971, 1977, G.I.A Publications, Inc.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

*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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

- ✘ *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*
- ✘ *If you are not baptized, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*
- ✘ *If you are not baptized and want to be, please contact one of the clergy.*
- ✘ *Please be guided by the ushers to the communion rail.*
- ✘ *You may drink or intinct from the common chalice.*
- ✘ *Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the altar rail.*

Anthem

Stephen Paulus 1949-2014

Even before we call on Your name to ask You, O God,  
When we seek for the words to glorify You, You hear our prayer;  
Unceasing love, O unceasing love, Surpassing all we know.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe Your name,  
And through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in You.  
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace, beyond all mortal dream.  
Both now and for ever, and unto ages and ages,  
Amen.

*Text: Michael Dennis Browne b. 1940*

*Refrain*

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
you are mine.*

When you walk through the waters,  
I'll be with you;  
you will never sink beneath the waves.  
When the fire is burning all around you,  
you will never be consumed by the flames.

*Refrain*

When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
then remember I am at your side.  
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,  
remember you are precious in my eyes.

*Refrain*

You are mine, O my child,  
I am your Father,  
and I love you with a perfect love.

*Refrain*

*Text: Gerard Markland b. 1953*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *Congregation stands.*

BCP 498

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*All: 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.*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

Celebrant: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## THE DISMISSAL

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

*People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

## HYMN 636



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!  
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,



to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake.

Words, Music: Stuart K. Hine; last st. setting by Eugene Thomas, Copyright 1955, Renewed 1981 by MANNA MUSIC, Inc. Used by Permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A708913

## POSTLUDE Toccata on *How Firm a Foundation*

Craig Phillips *b. 1961*

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

---

### *Clergy*

The Rev. Louise Samuelson  
The Rev. Trent Pettit

### *Musicians*

Steven A. Newberry, *director*  
John Meier, *organ*  
Alecia Lawyer, *oboe*  
Nathan Williams, *clarinet*  
The St. John the Divine Chorale Ensemble





Today's opening hymn, "Praise my soul the King of heaven," was the congregational hymn at Meredith and Ralph's wedding on August 10th, 1968.

## 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 Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, *Bishop in Residence*  
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