

A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND
THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

Charles William (Bill) Biggerstaff, Jr.

December 14, 1941 – May 18, 2026



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saturday, May 30, 2026
11:00 AM

A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

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December 14, 1941 – May 18, 2026

Rite II Holy Eucharist

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE RITE

BCP PG. 491

At the sound of the bell, all stand as they are able for the Entrance of the Ministers and family into the church.

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.

For all the saints, who from their labors rest

Sine nomine

1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed.

Alleluia, alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.

Alleluia, alleluia!

4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

Alleluia, alleluia!

5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia, alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.

Alleluia, alleluia!

7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

A COLLECT FOR BURIAL

BCP. 493

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Bill, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR THE FAMILY

BCP. 494

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Bill's family in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

Remain seated.

PSALM 121

BCP PG. 779
AVERY JOHNS

- 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

REVELATION 21:2-7
GIGI JOHNS

I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
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."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

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

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

I sing a song of the saints of God

THE HYMNAL 1982 – 293

Grand Isle

1 I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and his love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast;
and there's not any reason no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

3 They lived not only in ages past,
there are hundreds of thousands still,
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea,
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

REMARKS

KITSIE BIGGERSTAFF-MOTT
 VIRGINIA JOHNS
 SCOTT PADGETT
 JOHN DUNCAN

HOMILY

THE REVEREND JOHN JOHANSEN

Following the homily, we will have a time of quiet to consider Bill's life as a gift to us.

APOSTLES' CREED

All stand.

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

**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.**

Leader For our brother Bill, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Leader Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Bill, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People Hear us, Lord.

Leader You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

People Hear us, Lord.

Leader You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

People Hear us, Lord.

Leader You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

People Hear us, Lord.

Leader Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

People Hear us, Lord.

Leader He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

People Hear us, Lord.

Leader Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Bill, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

All stand.

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Kneel or stand at the rail and receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. Receive the cup which follows either by drinking from the cup as it is offered to you, or by retaining the wafer to carefully dip in the chalice. Another alternative is to take the wafer only. If you are not receiving communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents.

OFFERTORY HYMN
Morning has broken

HYMNAL 1982 – 8
Bunessan

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

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 God 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 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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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:

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People and Celebrant

**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 forever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia. Alleluia.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Love divine, all loves excelling

THE HYMNAL 1982 – 657

Hyfrydol

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
 joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 fix in us thy humble dwelling,
 all thy faithful mercies crown.
 Jesus, thou art all compassion,
 pure, unbounded love thou art;
 visit us with thy salvation,
 enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be alway blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

A mighty fortress is our God

THE HYMNAL 1982 – 688

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his Name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us;
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us;
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
his kingdom is for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP PG. 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.**

THE COMMENDATION

BCP p. 499

The Celebrant and other ministers take their places at the body.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants 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 servants with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

The Celebrant, facing the body, says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Bill. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

BCP p. 500

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

THE HYMNAL 1982 – 680

O God our help in ages past

St. Anne

*Following the singing of the hymn,
the congregation is invited to move to the Welcome Center
for a reception in memory of Bill.*

1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

2 under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

*Following the singing of the hymn,
the congregation is invited to move to the Welcome Center
for a reception in memory of Bill.*

*In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to:
All Saints' Episcopal Church, 525 Lake Concord Rd., Concord, NC 28025, and to
The American Red Cross, 125 Pedro St. Suite E. Monroe, NC 28110
in honor of Bill's longtime dedication to faith, service, and helping others.*

THE COMMITTAL

Celebrant Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.
He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead
will also give new life to our mortal bodies
through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Bill; and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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 forever. Amen**

Celebrant O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your great mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:

People **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

Celebrant May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People **Amen.**

The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S LITURGY

CELEBRANT & HOMILIST
The Reverend John Johanssen

DEACON
The Rev. Vern Cahoon

READERS
Mallory Mott
Gigi Johns
Avery Johns

REMARKS
Kitsie Biggerstaff-Mott
Virginia Johns
Scott Padgett
John Duncan

CHALICER
Martin Ericson

USHERS
Bob Black
John Cline
Kim Everhardt
Donna Wilson

ORGANIST
Brian Sapp-Moore, MM

