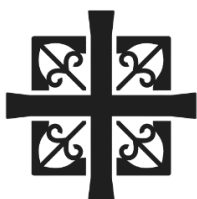


Martha Harriet Marsden Tarkington

March 14, 1944 – August 18, 2023



GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Chorale Prelude 9:30 a.m. ~ Burial Office Rite II 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, September 9, 2023

Welcome to Grace Church! We are an Episcopal Church, and we worship in that tradition. The Episcopal Burial Office is a service of resurrection. While we are here to say goodbye and mourn the loss of a loved one and friend, we are also here to celebrate that we live and die in the light of God's love and the promise of resurrection to new life.

You have a vital role to play in our worship! The **bolded** print indicates that all in attendance are invited to join in responding/speaking/praying. You will also notice *italicized print*. The italicized print is called rubrics. Rubrics are the 'stage directions' of worship. Rubrics offer instruction on who is speaking, when to stand, sit or kneel and such.

There are restrooms located both on the lower level of this building and on this level. The Undercroft restrooms are down the stairs in the entry way (Narthex) behind you. The accessible restroom on this level is through the exit on the left side of this worship space toward the front. Turn right as you enter the hallway; the restroom will be on your left.

Finally, there are long periods of standing in this service. Please feel free to sit as you need to do so.

**And if I go, while you're still here...
Know that I live on,
Vibrating to a different measure
Behind a thin veil you cannot see through.
You will not see me,
So you must have faith.
I wait for the time when we can soar
Together again,
Both aware of each other.
Until then, live your life to the fullest
And when you need me,
Just whisper my name in your heart,
...I will be there.**

-Emily Dickinson

PRELUDE *A hymn sing will begin at 9:30am. A longtime member of the Grace Church Choir, Marti had many favorite hymns, some of which are listed below. The Choir will lead as many of these hymns as possible in the time allotted. Please join in singing.*

Lift Every Voice and Sing	Page #	Verses
Shall we gather at the river	141	1,4
Just a closer walk with thee	72	1,3
How great thou art	60	1,2
Soon and very soon	14	1,2
We're marching to Zion	12	1,2
My Lord, what a morning	13	1,3
There is a balm in Gilead	203	1,3
The old rugged cross	38	1,4
He lives	42	1,3
Nearer, my God to thee	54	1,2
In the garden	69	1,3
I love to tell the story	64	1,2
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling	101	1,2
My faith looks up to thee	88	1,4
Just as I am	137	1,2,6
It is well with my soul	188	1,4
Lead me, guide me	194	1
Leaning on the everlasting arms	196	1,3

Hymnal 1982	Page #	Verses
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord	178	1,2
O God our help in ages past	680	1,2,3
I come with joy to meet my Lord	304	1,4,5
Now the silence	333	1
Come thou fount of every blessing	686	1,3
Surely it is God who saves me	678	1,2
The strife is o'er	208	1,2
What does the Lord require	605	1,2,4
A mighty fortress is our God	688	1,4
Amazing grace	671	1,4,5

WELCOME

THE ANTHEMS *Please stand as you are able.*

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though she die. And everyone who has life, and has committed herself to me in faith, shall not die forever.

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 herself, and none becomes her own master when she 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.

THE COLLECT

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**


Presider Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Marti. 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.


HYMN

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee


Hymnal 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.

Please be seated

REMEMBRANCE

Offered by Hilary Tarkington Stowers - Daughter

FIRST READING Read by Lisa Boyle - Friend of Family

Isaiah 61: 1-3

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.**

REMEMBRANCE

Offered by Steve Marsden - Brother

PSALM 121 *Please read responsively by half verse breaking at the asterisk*

Levavi Oculis

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

I am the Bread of Life

Steven Tarkington - Son

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

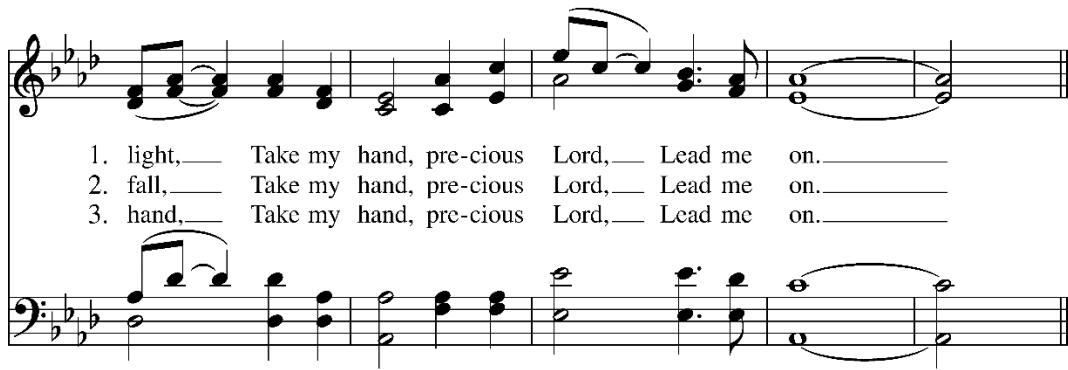
Take my hand precious Lord

LEVAS 106

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—

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

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



Words: Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993). Music: Thomas A. Dorsey; arrs. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Words and Music: Copyright © 1940 Unichappell Music, Inc. Copyright Renewed. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

THE GOSPEL

John 14: 1-6

Deacon The 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."

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

HOMILY

The Rev. Sarah D. Odderstol

Please stand, as you are able.

Presider In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, 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.

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 today 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, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. And this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

HYMN

God be in my head

Hymnal 694

God be in my head, and in my un - der - stand - ing;

God be in mine eyes, and in my look - ing;

God be in my mouth, and in my speak - ing;

God be in my heart, and in my think - ing;

God be at mine end, and at my de - part - ing.

Words: *Sarum Primer*, 1514. Music: *Lyttlington*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947). By permission of the Royal School of Church Music.

Please stand, as you are able.

THE COMMENDATION

Presider Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

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

Presider You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind; 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.

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

Presider continues,

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Marti. 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.**

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God only wise

Hymnal 423

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt. Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, from *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Childrens National Medical Center or Montgomery Hospice.

PRESIDER & PREACHER

The Rev. Sarah D. Odderstol

Ministers of Music

Heather Adelsberger, Director of Music Ministries
Grace Church Choir

Acolyte

Matthew Peterson

*Permission to reprint music obtained from The Rite Song, License #R15G-02967-2545.
Permission to reprint the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #S-922267.*

Death is nothing at all. It does not count. I have only slipped away into the next room. Nothing has happened. Everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and you are you, and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by the old familiar name. Speak of me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is absolute and unbroken continuity. What is this death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just round the corner. All is well.

-Henry Scott-Holland

A Letter from Heaven

To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say –
But first of all, to let you know that I arrived okay.
I'm writing this from Heaven where I live with God above.
Here there are no tears of sadness; here is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight.
That day I had to leave you when my life on Earth was through,
God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you.
It's good to have you back again. You were missed while you were gone.
As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on."

God gave me a list of things that He wished for me to do,
And foremost on the list was to watch and care for you.
And when you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight,
God and I are closest to you, in the middle of the night.

When you think of my life on Earth and all those loving years,
Because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears.
But do not be afraid to cry – it does relieve the pain.
Remember there would be no flowers
Unless there was some rain.

I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned,
But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.
But one thing is for certain, though my life on Earth is o'er,
I'm closer to you now than I ever was before.

There are many rocky roads ahead of you, and many hills to climb,
But together we can do it by taking one day at a time.
It was always my philosophy, and I'd like it for you, too:
That as you give unto the world, the world will give to you.
If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and in pain,
Then you can say to God at night, "My day was not in vain."

- Author Unknown