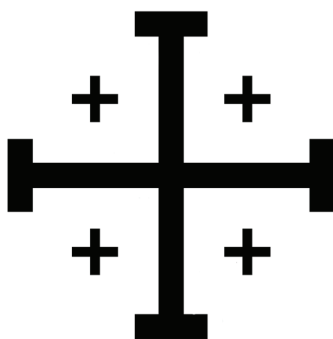


A SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

Charles Thomas Bleha

June 8, 1935 – March 26, 2025



Friday, the twenty-fifth of April
in the year of our Lord
two thousand twenty-five
at eleven o'clock in the morning

SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

*St. John's is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,
and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.*



Charles Thomas Bleha
1935–2025

Welcome to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.
*All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in **bold**.*

VOLUNTARY

INTROIT

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

Sung by the choir.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.
O holy and most merciful Savior, thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death,
to fall from thee. Amen.

—Funeral sentence from the Book of Common Prayer

Please stand as you are able as the procession enters.

Priest 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.

COLLECT

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Priest Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Tom, and grant him 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.**

WELCOME

Please be seated.

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell

REMEMBRANCE

Natasha Simes

HYMN 688

A mighty fortress is our God

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours

of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe
the man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be?
his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark-ness grim,
through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin-dred go, go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:

and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546); tr. Frederic Henry Hedge (1805-1890); based on Psalm 46. Music: *Ein feste Burg*, melody Martin Luther (1483-1546); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

THE FIRST READING

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Read by Bill Breer.

Please be seated.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

For the LORD will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1-11*Sung by the choir; setting by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876).*

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,”
Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

THE SECOND READING

Revelation 21:2-7

Read by John Kelley.

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.**

PSALM 23

Led by the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, said by all.

The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; *
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

Please stand as you are able.

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Said by all, standing as you are able.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Please remain standing as you are able.

Intercessor 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.**

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

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, he 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 blessed John and 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.**

HYMN 671

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am - found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing as you are able.

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

The priest continues

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and doth comfort us with the blessed hope of everlasting life; for to thy faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body doth lie in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

Said by all.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel as you are able. The priest continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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 FRACTION

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest 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 persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Wait for an usher to call your pew to come forward. You will first be handed a wafer by a priest (gluten-free wafers are available by request) and then offered wine by a lay server. You may either sip the wine or dip your wafer into the wine. Receiving the bread alone is a valid way to share in the Eucharist. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. All may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Abide with me

arr. Moses Hogan (1957–2003)

Sung by the choir.

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

O thou who changest not, abide with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. Amen.

—Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847)

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Priest Let us pray.

All Almighty God, we thank thee that in thy great love thou hast fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast given unto us a foretaste of thy heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be unto 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 thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Priest Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all persons. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon you this day and evermore.
Amen.

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 287

For all the saints, who from their labors rest

Sung by all, standing as you are able.



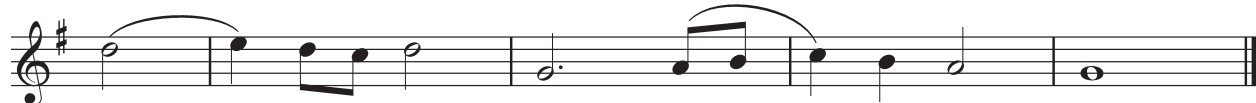
1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:____
 3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,____
 4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!____
 7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glo - rious day; the
 8 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee____ by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;____
 fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
 We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 saints tri - umph - ant rise in bright ar - ray; the
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host____



Name, O____ Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.
 win, with____ them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.
 all are____ one in thee, for all are thine.
 King of____ glo - ry pass - es on his way.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897). Music: *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958).

VOLUNTARY

*You are invited to a reception immediately following the service in
 Togo West Parlor, on the first floor of St. John's Parish House.*

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ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

CLERGY

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell

CRUCIFER

Jack Reiffer

MUSICIANS

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

Elissa Edwards, Celine Mogielnicki, and Tory Wood, *sopranos*

Rachel Barham, Lisa Koehler, and Charlotte Stewart, *altos*

David Evans, Joshua Fisher, and Andrew Sauvageau, *tenors*

Christopher Jones, James Rogers, and Tom Rust, *basses*

REMEMBRANCE

Natasha Simes

READERS

Bill Breer

John Kelley

CHALICE BEARERS

Sandra Hackworth

Jack Reiffer

LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN

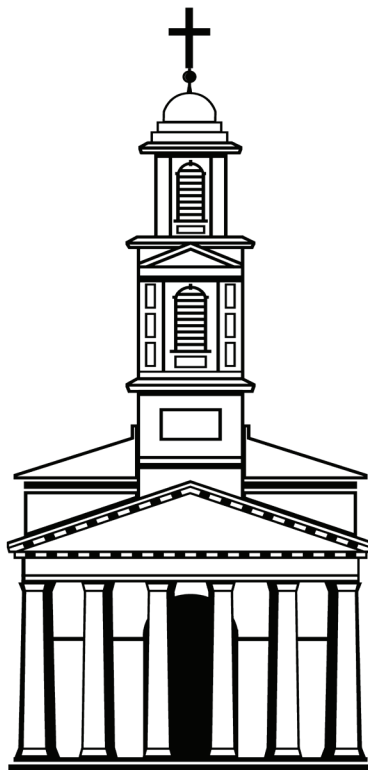
Jeremy Skog

FLOWER GUILD

Pat Dalby

Katherine Kyle

Elizabeth Lewis



ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community,
and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

Parish House

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(202) 347-8766 ♦ www.stjohns-dc.org