

A SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
Diane Louise Melvin Allison Spaulding

June 23, 1947 – March 18, 2025



Friday, April 11, 2025, at 11 a.m.

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.*

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 (1659–1965)

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 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.

COLLECTS

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Diane, and grant her 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.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Diane's family and friends 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.**

WELCOME *Please be seated.*

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

REMEMBRANCES

Carla Bundy and Alex Robinson

HYMN 488

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE FIRST READING

Read by Tico Thomas.

Isaiah 61:1-3

Please be seated.

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.

PSALM 23

Said in unison by all, seated.

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.

ANTHEM

There is a balm in Gilead

arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949)

Sung by the choir.

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick soul.*

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all. *Refrain*

Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll ne'er refuse to lend. *Refrain*

—Traditional spiritual

THE SECOND READING

Read by Ellen Herbert.

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Said by all, standing as you are able.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has 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 PRAYERS

Led by Sarah Wood.

Intercessor For our sister Diane, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Intercessor You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Intercessor You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Intercessor Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Intercessor She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

The priest continues

Father of all, we pray to you for Diane, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

THE COMMENDATION

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

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

Priest 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.

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

Priest Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Diane. 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

Priest Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN LEVAS 72

Just a closer walk with thee

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1. I am weak but thou art strong; _____
2. Through this world of toil and snares, _____
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, _____
Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, _____

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 3. Time for me will be no more; Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly
 Refrain: Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, Dai - ly walk - ing close to

1. long As I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 2. shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 3. o'er To Thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.
 Refrain: thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

D.C. for Refrain

Words: Anonymous. Music: American Folk Song.

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand as you are able.

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

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

If you wish to make a memorial offering to St. John's, you may do so using the QR code or at bit.ly/sjc-offering.



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ASSISTING AT TODAY'S SERVICE

CLERGY

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

CRUCIFER

Wendy J. Fibison

REMEMBRANCES

Carla Bundy and Alex Robinson

READERS

Tico Thomas

Ellen Herbert

MUSICIANS

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Tory Wood, *Soprano*

Charlotte Stewart, *Alto*

Andrew Sauvageau, *Tenor*

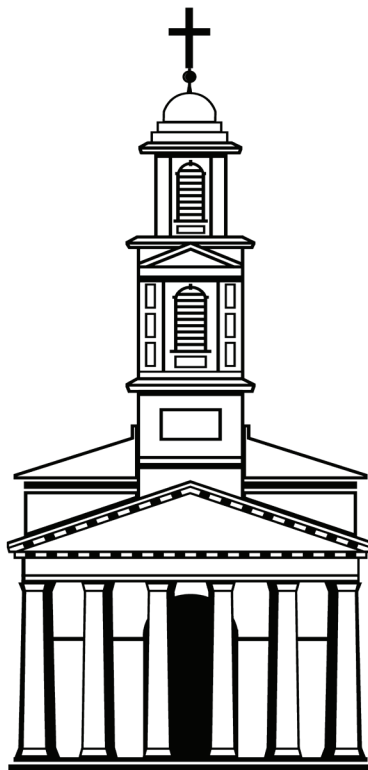
Nathan Lofton, *Bass*

USHERS

Jim and Pat Czerwonky

LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN

Jeremy Skog



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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