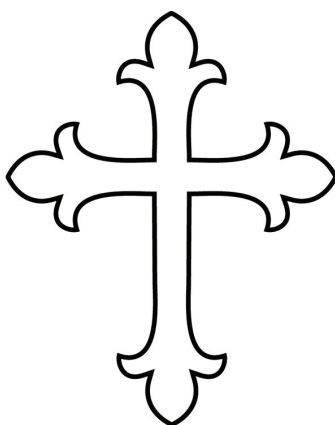


A SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

Ruth McWilliams Leffall

August 22, 1930 – June 20, 2023



Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 10:30 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

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 of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Ruth. 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.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Ruth'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.**

REMEMBRANCE

LaSalle D. Leffall III

HYMN 208

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

Antiphon (at the beginning)

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

Ped. |

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

Antiphon (at the end)

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

Ped.

Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt. Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

READING

“Remember me” by Margaret Mead

Read by Paula M. Ortiz.

Please be seated.

To the living, I am gone. To the sorrowful, I will never return. To the angry, I was cheated, but to the happy, I am at peace, and to the faithful, I have never left. I cannot be seen, but I can be heard. So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea—remember me. As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand majesty—remember me. As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity—remember me. Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, your memories of the times we loved, the times we cried, the times we fought, the times we laughed. For if you always think of me, I will never be gone.

HYMN 560

Remember your servants, Lord

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

Antiphon

Re-mem-ber your ser-vants, Lord, when you come in your kingly pow-er.

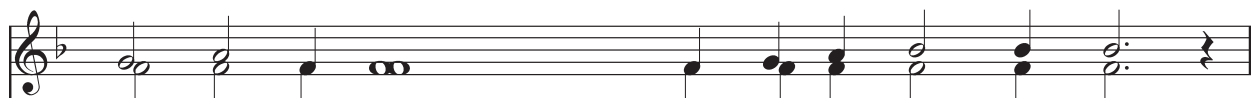
1. Bless-ed are the poor in spi-rit; for theirs is the kingdom of hea-ven.




2. Bless - ed are those who mourn; for they shall be com - fort - ed.



3. Bless - ed are the meek; for they shall in - her - it the earth.



4. Bless - ed are those who hunger and thirst af - ter right - eous - ness;



for they shall be sat - is - fied. 5. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful;



for they shall ob - tain mer - cy. 6. Bless - ed are the pure in heart;



for they shall see God. 7. Bless - ed are the peace - ma - kers;

for they shall be called the chil - dren of God.

8. Bless - ed are those who are perse - cut - ed for right - eous - ness' sake;

for theirs is the kingdom of hea - ven.

9. Bless - ed are you when the world re - viles you and per - se - cutes you;

and utters all manner of evil against you false - ly for my sake:

Re-joyce and be ex-ceed-ing glad; for great is your reward in hea - ven.

Antiphon

Re-mem - ber your ser-vants, Lord, when you come in your kingly pow - er.

Words: Russian Orthodox liturgy; Matthew 5:3-12. Music: *Beatitudes*, Russian Orthodox hymn; arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).
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READING

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

Please be seated.

Read by Dr. Julio A. Ortiz Jr.

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 594

God of grace and God of glory

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

READING

“Gone From My Sight” by Henry Van Dyke

Read by Julio A. Ortiz III.

Please be seated.

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side, spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then, someone at my side says, “There, she is gone.” Gone where? Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast, hull, and spar as she was when she left my side. And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port. Her diminished size is in me—not in her. And, just at the moment when someone says, “There, she is gone,” there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, “Here she comes!” And that is dying.

PSALM 23 *Sung by the choir.*

The Lord my God my shepherd is

The Lord my God my shepherd is; how could I want or need?
In pastures green, by streams serene, he safely doth me lead.

To wholeness he restores my soul and doth in mercy bless,
and helps me take for his Name’s sake the paths of righteousness.

Yea, even when I must pass through the valley of death’s shade,
I will not fear, for thou art here, to comfort and to aid.

Thou hast in grace my table spread secure in all alarms,
and filled my cup, and borne me up in everlasting arms.

Then surely I can trust thy love for all the days to come,
that I may tell thy praise, and dwell for ever in thy home.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984); para. of Psalm 23. Music: *Crimond*, melody Jesse Seymour Irvine (1836–1887); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

Please remain standing as you are able.

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.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Wesley S. Williams Jr.

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

Joseph Lees (1873–1946)

Sung by the choir.

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 OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Wesley Hastie Williams.

Please remain standing as you are able.

Intercessor For our sister Ruth, 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 Ruth, 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

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Ruth, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her 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.**

THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE COMMENDATION

Please stand as you are able.

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 Ruth. 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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

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 mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Priest Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

The Holy City

Michael Maybrick (1841–1913)

Sung by Keith Pennick, soloist.

Last night I lay a sleeping, there came a dream so fair,
I stood in old Jerusalem beside the temple there.
I heard the children singing, and ever as they sang,
methought the voice of angels from Heav'n in answer rang—
Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing,
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your king!

And then methought my dream was changed, the streets no longer rang,
hushed were the glad hosannas the little children sang.
The sun grew dark with mystery, the morn was cold and chill,
as the shadow of a cross arose upon a lonely hill.
Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Hark! how the angels sing,
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your king,

And once again the scene was changed, new earth there seemed to be,
I saw the Holy City beside the tideless sea;
the light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide,
and all who would might enter, and no one was denied.
No need of moon or stars by night, or sun to shine by day,
it was the new Jerusalem, that would not pass away.
Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Sing, for the night is o'er!
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna for evermore!

—*F.E. Weatherly (1848–1929)*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

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.



ASSISTING AT TODAY'S SERVICE

CLERGY

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*
The Rev. William Morris
The Rev. Dr. Wesley S. Williams Jr., *Homilist*

MUSICIANS

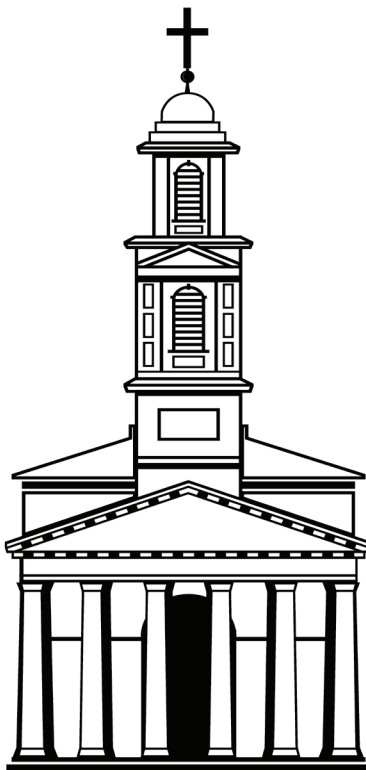
Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*
Keith Pennick, *Soloist*

READERS

Dr. Julio A. Ortiz Jr.
Julio A. Ortiz III
Paula M. Ortiz

INTERCESSOR

Wesley Hastie Williams



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

1525 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-1005

(202) 347-8766 ♦ www.stjohns-dc.org