



GRACE-ST. LUKE'S  

---

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE TWO  
FEBRUARY 13, 2021, 11 AM

JOHN "BARTON" WILLIAMS  
JULY 31, 1984 – FEBRUARY 8, 2021

**Welcome.** *It is our custom to observe silence before worship for individual meditation and to silence any communication devices that might disturb you or your neighbor. The order of service is according to The Book of Common Prayer. Congregational responses are in bold.*

PRELUDE

*“Elegy”*

*“Aria”*

George Thalben-Ball  
George Frederic Handel

THE GREETINGS: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

*The Celebrant invites all to stand and then says the Anthems.*

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.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

THE COLLECT

BCP p. 493

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant Barton, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*All sit.*

REFLECTION *on behalf of the family*: Dr. Allen R. Williams

THE FIRST READING: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: Wisdom 3:1-5,9

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All remain seated and read together in unison*

PSALM 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.**
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the  
depths of the sea;**
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.**
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- 6 God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.**
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.**
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.**
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \*  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.**
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”**
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

THE THIRD READING: Revelation 21:2-7

And 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; 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:11-16

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*All sit.*

HOMILY: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

"*Thaxted* (Jupiter), from "The Planets"

Gustav Holst, arr. Pettit

*All stand.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

BCP p. 496

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 364

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

**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

BCP p. 497

*After each petition, please respond "Hear us, Lord."*

For our brother Barton, 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 Barton, and dry the tears of those who weep.

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

*The Celebrant concludes with the following prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Barton, 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.**

THE COMMENDATION

BCP p. 499

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

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

THE BLESSING

BCP p. 500

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Clergy and family depart during the Closing Voluntary.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven”

arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace

The flowers at the Altar and adorning the Paschal Candle are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the life of John Barton Williams.

*The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn. BCP p. 507*

The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, *Celebrant & Homilist*  
The Rev. Michael Walker, *Braden United Methodist Church, Mason*  
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, *Director of Music and Organist*  
Scott Moore, *Trumpet*

---

GRACE-ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1720 PEABODY AVENUE      MEMPHIS, TN 38104  
WWW.GRACESTLUKES.ORG      901-272-7425