

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving  
for the Life of

*Helen Bird Arthur-Cornett*

July 19, 1925 – November 16, 2021



Saturday, November 16, 2021

4:00 PM

All Saints' Episcopal Church  
525 Lake Concord Rd NE  
Concord, NC 28025

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving  
for the life of  
*Helen Bird Arthur-Cornett*

July 19, 1925 - November 16, 2021

LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All stand*

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though they 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.

Celebrant:           The Lord be with you.  
**People:**            **And also with you.**  
Celebrant:           Let us pray.

Celebrant:

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 Helen, 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, on God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** (*Please stand*)

Hymnal 1982–526

1 Let saints on earth in concert sing with those whose work is done;  
for all the servants of our King in heaven and earth are one.

2 One family we dwell in him, one Church, above, beneath,  
though now divided by the stream, the narrow stream of death.

3 One army of the living God, to his command we bow;  
part of the host have crossed the flood, and part are crossing now.

4 E'en now by faith we join our hands with those that went before,  
and greet the ever-living bands on the eternal shore.

5 Jesus, be thou our constant Guide; then, when the word is given,  
bid Jordan's narrow stream divide, and bring us safe to heaven.

*Hymn permission used by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.*

*Please be seated for the readings*

**Hebrew Scripture**

**Isaiah 26:6-9**

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 106:1-5**

1 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,\*  
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord\*  
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice\*  
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people,\*  
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people,\*  
that I may glory with your inheritance.

**Epistle**

**2 Timothy 4:6-8**

Reader: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

**Hymnal 1982–293**

I sing a song of the saints of God

*Grand Isle*

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,  
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green:  
they were all of them saints of God and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love made them strong;  
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast;  
and there's not any reason no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

3 They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still,  
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea,  
for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

*Hymn permission used by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.*

**New Testament**

**Revelation 21:2-7**

Reader: A reading from Book of Revelation.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Reflections**

**The Rev. Vern Cahoon**

**The Homily**

**The Rev. Nancy L.J. Cox**

**The Apostles Creed**

**BCP p. 496**

Celebrant In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

Celebrant and People

**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.

*Silence*

### 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 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.

### Prayers of the People

For our sister, Helen, 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 Helen, 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 sister eternal life.

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

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.**

*Silence may be kept.*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Helen 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.**

**Hymn**

**Hymnal 1982—405**

All things bright and beautiful

*Royal Oak*

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings. Refrain

2 The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky, Refrain

3 The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one. Refrain

4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. Refrain

*Hymn permission used by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.*

## The Commendation

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

Celebrant 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.**

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

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

## Closing Hymn

Hymnal 1982—662

1 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.

2 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, Lord, abide with me.

3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.

Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

4 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*Hymn permission used by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.*





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 principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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. *Book of Common Prayer page 507.*

Almighty God, we remember this day before you your faithful servant Helen; and we pray that, having opened to her the gates of larger life, you will receive her more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, she may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

