

*Memorial Service & Committal in Celebration of the Life of*

**MARGARET BENNETT**

1934 — 2020



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church  
September 18, 2021  
2 o'clock

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

# THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*All gather at the tolling of the bell.*

## Scripture Anthem

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 ourselves,  
and none becomes their own master when they die.  
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 Collect

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 Marge.  
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.**

# THE WORD OF GOD

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

Read by Aron Bennett

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 46** *Deus noster refugium*

Led by Greg Bennett

- 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.

## 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

Read by Aron Bennett

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Reflections

The Rev. Laurel Coote

## Amazing Grace

*New Britain*

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

## The Prayers

Leader For Marge, 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, and dry the tears of those who weep.

**People Hear us, Lord.**

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

**People Hear us, Lord.**

Leader You raised the dead to life; give Marge eternal life.

**People Hear us, Lord.**

Leader You promised paradise to the thief who repented;  
bring Marge to the joys of heaven.

**People Hear us, Lord.**

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

**People Hear us, Lord.**

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

**People Hear us, Lord.**

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

**People Hear us, Lord.**

Priest Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Marge, 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 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 Marge.  
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 Committal

Priest Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;  
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life  
to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Marge. And we commit her  
remains to their resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her  
and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her  
and give her peace. **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

**People 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.**

### **Morning Has Broken**

*Bumessan*

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!  
Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.  
Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's re-creation of the new day!

Priest **R**est eternal grant to her, O Lord;  
And let light perpetual shine upon her.  
May her soul, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

**T**he God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant:  
Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which  
is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever  
and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People Thanks be to God.**

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**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**

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