

A Celebration of the Life
of
Jane Theresa Armistead

June 12, 1946 - August 21, 2023



September 2, 2023
2:30 PM
St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church
Athens, GA

The Reverend Nikki Mathis, Officiant

The Rite of Christian Burial

Jane Theresa Armistead

Opening Procession

(all stand)

Opening Anthems

The Book of Common Prayer 491

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 Collect

The Book of Common Prayer 493

Celebrant: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: *Let us pray.*

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Jane, 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 Jane's family 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.**

Opening Hymn 525

The Church's one foundation

AURELIA

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

read by James Armistead

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject

for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 121 (*in unison*) led by Emily (Armistead) Buck

BCP 779

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

New Testament Reading read by Richard Armistead 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

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.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn 680

O God, our help in ages past

ST. ANNE

The Gospel

John 14:1-6

Celebrant: *The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John.*People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

*The Gospel of the Lord.****Praise to you, O Christ.*****The Homily**

The Rev. Nikki Mathis

The Apostles' Creed

BCP 496

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.

Choral Anthem*It Is Well With My Soul*

Philip P. Bliss

The Prayers

BCP 497

For our sister, Jane, 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 Jane, 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.

Father of all, we pray to you for Jane, 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

Celebrant *Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,*
People *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.

Celebrant and People: *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 Jane. 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.**

Hymn *Lord of the Dance* **SIMPLE GIFTS**
 (see back page of bulletin)

Please follow the cross and the family to the Memorial Garden for the Committal.

As the ashes are carried from the church, these anthems are said:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb.

The Sun of Righteousness is gloriously risen, giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world.

Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in his Name, saying, Come, O blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you.

Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs receive you, and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.

The Committal

Celebrant

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.

Celebrant

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister, Jane; and we commit her ashes to the ground; 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.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

Celebrant

God our Comforter, you are a refuge and a helper close at hands in times of distress. Help us to hold fast to our faith, that fear is dispelled, loneliness eased, and hope reawakened. May your Holy Spirit lift us above our natural sorrow to the peace and light of your constant love. We have been parted from Jane, but none of us, living or dead, will ever be separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Celebrant Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord:

People **And let light perpetual shine upon her.**

Celebrant May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please join the family for tea in Parish Hall.

Servers

Officiant: The Rev. Nikki Mathis

Organist: Alexandra Dunbar

Crucifer: Maggie Reinberger

Torches: Karen Hankins & Richard Cooper

Ushers: Lois Alworth & Anna Hiers

Flowers: MaryAnn Cox & Viviane VanGiesen

Altar Guild: Barbara Dean & Berni McCranie

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

Hymns may be found in The Hymnal 1982

Lord of the Dance

Sydney Carter, 1963

19th Century Shaker Tune

Unison G Em Bm Em Am

1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, and I danced in the moon and the
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they would not dance and they
 3. I danced on the sab - bath when I cured the lame, the ho - ly peo - ple
 4. I danced on a Fri - day and the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that - 'll

stars and the sun, and I came down from heav - en and I
 would not fol - low me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for
 said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung
 dev - il on your back; they bur - ied my bod - y and
 nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

Refrain Bm Em Am D7 C G G Bm

danced on the earth, At Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 James and John; they came to me and the dance went on.
 me high; and they left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wher -
 they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.
 live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

- ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll

C D7 G C G

lead you all in the dance, said he.