

27 December 2021 ✠ 11:00 AM

A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Life of

George Hinton Watson, Jr.

(11 December 1938 - 15 December 2021)



ST GREGORY THE GREAT
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Athens, GA

The Reverend Nikki Mathis, Celebrant

I Am The Resurrection And I Am the Life

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. There 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.

From *The book of Common Prayer*, page 507



A Liturgy for the Burial of the Dead

Organ Prelude

Solemn Procession

BCP 469

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord;
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
Even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Hymn 688

A mighty fortress is our God

EIN FESTE BURG

The Collect

BCP 470

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant George, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading Genesis 21:17-20

Camden Trammell

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121 (*said by all in unison*)

BCP 473

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; *
from whence cometh my help?
My help cometh even from the LORD, *
who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved, *
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD himself is thy keeper; *
the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand;
So that the sun shall not burn by day, *
neither the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; *
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The LORD shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-20

Emma Jane Kirk

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

The Third Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Dalton Trammell

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 208

The strife is o'er, the battle done

VICTORY

Psalm 23 (KJV) *said by all in unison*

BCP 476

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his

Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; *

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of

mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Fourth Reading Romans 8:35, 37-39

Jacob Trammell

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 645

The King of love my shepherd is

ST. COLUMBA

The Holy Gospel *The People standing*

John 14:1-6

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

Congregation: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

After the reading

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Nikki Mathis

The Apostles' Creed *Said by all, standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
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 *Said by all, standing or kneeling (if able)*

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

BCP 480

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one
communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son
Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole
Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. **Amen.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. **Amen.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. **Amen.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Amen.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust George to thy never-failing love; receive him into the arms of thy mercy, and remember him according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. **Amen.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with blessed George and all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Commendation

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

Priest Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so
thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto
dust shalt thou return." All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we
make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Priest Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant George.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own
flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of thy mercy, into
the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in
light. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Hymn 376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

HYMN TO JOY

*Congregation will recess to the Memorial Garden during the hymn,
following The Rev. Nikki Mathis.*

Please take your bulletin insert with you.

The family would like to thank Compassionate Care Hospice staff and family and friends for all their assistance during George's illness.



Celebrant: The Rev. Nikki Mathis
Deacon: The Rev. Christina Dondero
Pianist: Annette Bates
Greeters: Alice Mohor & Martha Beach
Acolytes: Richard Cooper
Crucifer: David Stooksbury
Flowers: St. Gregory's Flower Guild
Altar Guild: David Lowe & Barbara Dean