

Celebration of Life
Betty Dowdy Fisher

June 8, 1941 - September 9, 2025



Friday, October 24, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

St. Richard's Episcopal Church
5151 Lake Howell Rd., Winter Park, FL 32792
407-671-4211 www.strichards.org
The Rev. Alison P. Harrity, *Rector*
Dr. Carl MaultsBy, *Director of Music and Organist*

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

PRELUDE “Sheep May Safely Graze” J. S. BACH

OPENING ANTHEMS *As the altar party enters, please stand as you are able.*

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.

WELCOME

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister, Betty. 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.

All **Amen.**

The people sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 25:6-9

Reader A Reading from Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people 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 God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 46 *The psalm is read responsively as indicated.*

Psalmist ¹ God is our refuge and strength, *

People **a very present help in trouble.**

Psalmist ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *

People **and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;**

Psalmist ³ Though its waters rage and foam, *

People **and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.**

Psalmist ⁴ The Lord of hosts is with us; *

People **the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Psalmist ⁵ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *

People **the holy habitation of the Most High.**

Psalmist ⁶ God is in the midst of her;

she shall not be over-thrown; *

People **God shall help her at the break of day.**

Psalmist ⁷ The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *

People **God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.**

Psalmist ⁸ The Lord of hosts is with us; *

People **the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Psalmist ⁹ Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *

People **what awesome things he has done on earth.**

Psalmist ¹⁰ It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *

People **he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

Psalmist ¹¹ “Be still, then, and know that I am God; *

People **I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

Psalmist ¹² The Lord of hosts is with us; *

People **the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:1-9

Reader A Reading from Second Corinthians.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us 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 further clothed with our heavenly dwelling, for surely when we have been clothed in it we will not be found naked. For while we are 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. The one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a down payment.

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 be pleasing to him.

Reader The Word of God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able. All sing.

SEQUENCE HYMN 657 “Love divine, all loves excelling” (*Hyfrydol*)

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

THE GOSPEL John 14:1-6

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospeller “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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

Reader **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The people sit.

HOMILY The Rev. Dr. Harry Coverston

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLE’S CREED

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

All **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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition, the congregation responds, "Hear us, Lord."

Leader For Betty, 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 Betty, 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 to Betty eternal life.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Betty 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 Betty; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence.

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you Betty 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.

All **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN 671 “Amazing Grace” (*New Britain*) *All sing.*

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
* 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All sing.

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS “Holy, holy, holy Lord”

(Deutsche Messe) FRANZ SCHUBERT

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow'r and might. Heav - en and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. by Richard Proulx, © 1985, 1989, GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All **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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD *A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

AGNUS DEI “Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God”

(*Deutsche Messe*) FRANZ SCHUBERT



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Re-deem - er, Re - deem - er of the world,



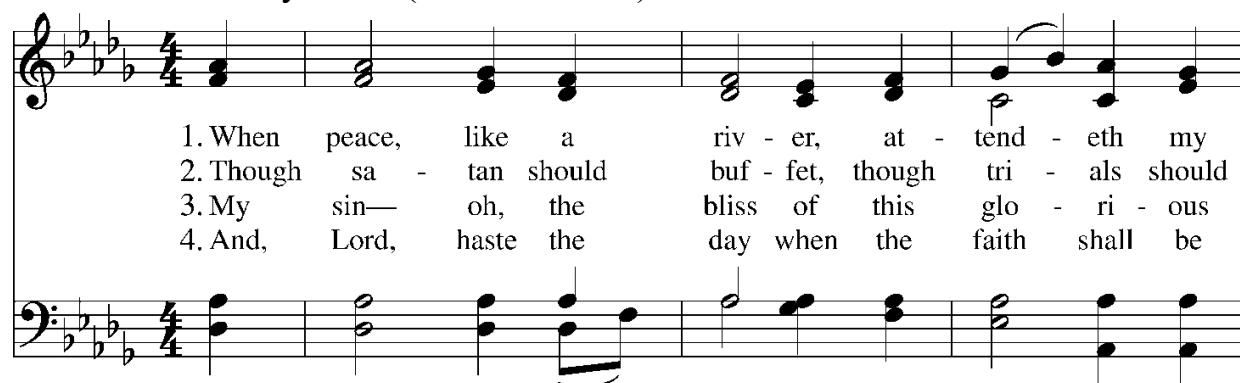
give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828, adapt. by Richard Proulx, © 1985, 1989, GIA Publications, Inc.

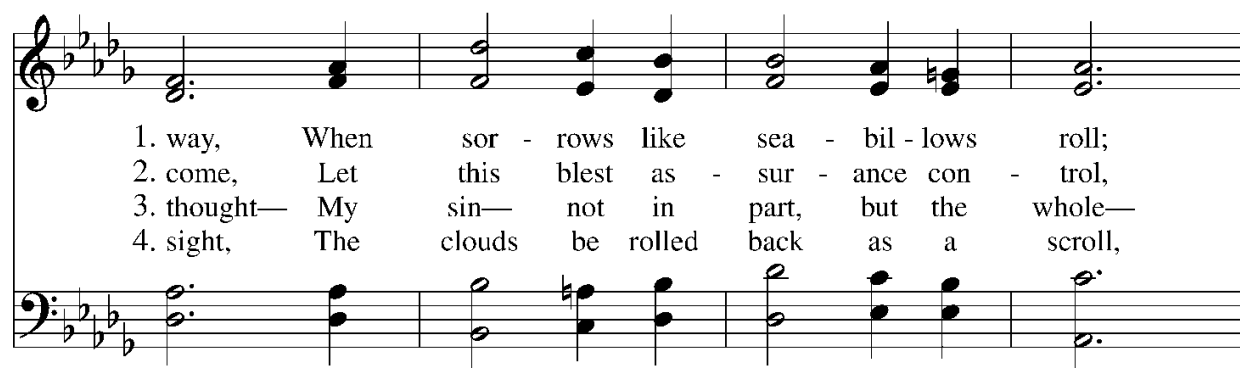
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

“It Is Well with My Soul” (*Ville du Havre*)



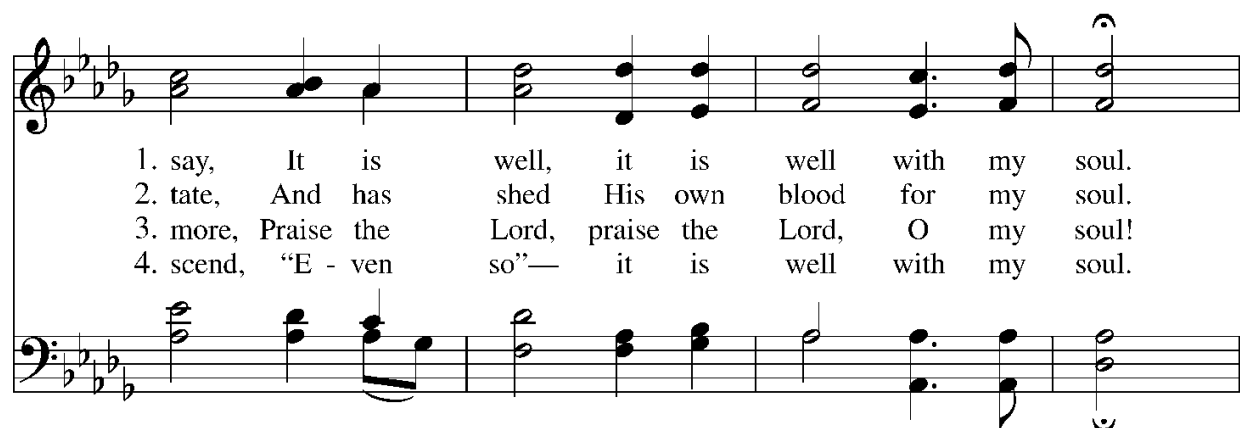
1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my
 2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should
 3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be



1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;
 2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,
 3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—
 4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,



1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
 2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
 3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
 4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -



1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 2. tate, And has shed His own blood for my soul.
 3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 4. scend, “E - ven so”— it is well with my soul.

The hymn continues on page 14.

It is well with my soul, It is well with my

soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Words: Horatio Spafford (1828-1888). Music: Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876).

304 "I come with joy to meet my Lord" (*Land of Rest*)

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, For -
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share Each
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll

giv - en, loved, and free, In awe and won - der
 find, as all are fed, The new com - mu - ni -
 proud di - vi - sion ends. The love that made us
 pres - ence, al - ways near, Is in such friend - ship
 go our dif - f'rent ways, And as his peo - ple

to re - call His life laid down for me.
 ty of love In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 makes us one, And stran - gers now are friends.
 bet - ter known; We see and praise him here.
 in the world, We'll live and speak his praise.

Text: Brian Wren, b.1936, © 1971, Hope Publishing Co.

Tune: LAND OF REST, CM; American; harm. by Annabel M. Buchanan, 1888-1983

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

All **Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.**

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 Betty. 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.

All **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 208 “The strife is o’er, the battle done” (*Victory*)

Antiphon (at the beginning)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

1 The strife is o’er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 *3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death’s dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 4 heaven’s high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

Antiphon (at the end)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Poti (1832-1909), alt. Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

POSTLUDE AND PROCESSIONAL TO THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The people follow the altar party and the family out of the Sanctuary into the Memorial Garden for the Committal.

“I’m gonna walk dem golden stairs” CULLY HOLT

Recording sung by Elvis Presley

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.

Then, while earth is cast upon the grave, the Celebrant says these words

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God, Betty and we commit her body 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.

Rest 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.

All **Amen.**

BLESSING

Celebrant The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal 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.

All **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

DISMISSAL

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.**

Betty D. Fisher

June 8, 1941 – September 9, 2025

Betty D. Fisher, 84, passed away peacefully in her home on September 9, 2025. Born June 8, 1941, in Collinsville, Alabama, Betty lived a full and spirited life defined by family, faith, music, and her love of baking.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert E. and Rema G. Dowdy; her brothers, Robert L. Dowdy and Donald W. Dowdy; and her beloved husband, Lewis L. Fisher.

Betty is survived by her sister, Lilian Rothell, and husband Bill Rothell; her brother, Bruce Dowdy, and wife Donna Dowdy; her sister-in-law, Patricia Dowdy; her children, Kathy Fisher, James Fisher, and Savanna Fisher; her grandchildren, Phillip Siniscalco, Michael Knighten; and her great grandson Jaxon Knighten. She is also survived by her loyal dog, King Tut, who brought her constant companionship and joy.

Betty grew up on her family's farm along Highway 11 in Collinsville, where her father worked for the railroad and her mother ran Dowdy's Café and Service Station. She helped care for her younger brother Bruce and worked alongside her mother in the café, where she developed her lifelong love of cooking and baking. Though she left school in the 12th grade to help her family, she later proudly completed her high school education through night classes.

Throughout her life, Betty's hands and heart were always busy creating. After marrying her sweetheart, Lew, she made a warm home and found joy in her wedding cake business, which earned her a feature in a local magazine. Her creativity and generosity touched everyone who knew her.

After retirement, Betty and Lew adopted their daughter, Savanna, and together they poured their love and energy into raising her. She cared devotedly for her husband through years of sickness until his passing. Following Lew's death, Betty continued to raise Savanna with the same strength and warmth that had defined her.

Betty lived in Alabama, California, North Carolina, and Florida, but no matter where she went, she brought her Southern warmth and charm with her. A member of the Sweet Adelines, she loved music and grew up singing in the church at Greenwood, where her mother played piano and her and her sister filled the room with their beautiful voices.

Known for her outgoing and bubbly personality, Betty never met a stranger. She had a gift for making everyone feel welcome — whether in her kitchen, her church, or her circle of friends.

Her life was a beautiful melody of love, laughter, and faith. She will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to know her.

Service Participants

The Rev. Dr. Harry Coverston, *Celebrant and Preacher*
Warren Carlson, *Acolyte, Old Testament Reader & Psalmist*
Meg Folsom, *New Testament Reader*
Shirley Caballero, *Usher*
Dr. Carl MaulsBy, *Director of Music and Organist*