

A Celebration of Resurrection for the life of
Sue Coar van der Veer
November 1, 1963—March 19, 2026



Saturday, April 18th, 2026
11 o'clock in the morning
Church of the Holy Comforter, Episcopal
543 Beulah Road NE
Vienna, VA 22180

Prelude “Bless the Lord, O My Soul (10,000 Reasons)”

Matt Redman

Opening Hymn (blue hymnal) #473: *Lift High the Cross*

Welcome

The Rev. Jon Strand

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 Sue. 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.*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Sue’s family, especially, Christopher, her son; Helen, her mother, Rob, her brother; Patty, her sister-in-law, and dear friends and family who are here or with us in spirit. 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.*

The people sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

Proverbs 2:1-11

Reader: Patty Wagner

My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding,
if you indeed cry out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures—
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path,
for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

prudence will watch over you,
and understanding will guard you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Response:** *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me* (read responsively at the half-verse)

Reader: Thomas Setlik

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Philippians 1:21-26

Reader: Susan McGuire

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Response:** *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand

Sequence Hymn (green hymnal) #810: *You Who Dwell In the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagle's Wings)*

The Gospel

Gospeler: The Rev. Jackie Thomson

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

John 14: 26-29

Jesus said to his disciples, “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Reflections

John Setlik, Rob Coar

The Homily

The Rev. Jon Strand

The Prayers

Dear Friends: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Let us pray, then, for Sue, that she may rest from her labors, and enter into the light of God’s eternal sabbath rest.

Receive, O Lord, your servant, for she returns to you.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister, Sue.

Wash her in the holy font of everlasting life, and clothe her in her heavenly garment.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister, Sue.

May she hear your words of invitation, “Come, you blessed of my Father.”
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister, Sue.

May she gaze upon you, Lord, face to face, and taste the blessedness of perfect rest.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister, Sue.

May angels surround her, and saints welcome her in peace.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister, Sue.

The Officiant concludes

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord, and we especially remember George, her father. Receive Sue into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place. Let her heart and soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

Announcements

The Offertory

Offertory Hymn (green hymnal) #812: I, The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am Lord)

Please stand

The Great Thanksgiving

As Jesus welcomed all to the table, all are welcome to share in Christ's offering of love to us through the giving of himself in love through the shared meal and presence.

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.*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Leah, Ruth and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

*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.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant. The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in
your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music:

Hymns (blue hymnal) #488: *Be Thou My Vision*

#711: *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

#335: *I am the Bread of Life*

The Postcommunion Prayer (*spoken together*)

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.

Hymn at the Commendation (blue hymnal) #490 (vs 1 and 3): *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

The Commendation (congregation please join in italicized words)

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

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, Sue. 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 Blessing and Dismissal

Procession Out Hymn #376 (blue hymnal) *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

The Committal *Immediate family will first go to the columbarium and will shortly join the reception in the Community Hall.*

All are invited to join us for a lunch reception and further remembrances in the Community Hall.

Participants

The Rev. Jon C. Strand, Rector, officiant
The Rev. Rick Lord, presiding at the eucharist
The Rev. Jackie Thomson, gospeler and deacon at the table
Dr. David Boulware Kelley, Minister of Music, organ
Ashley Boulware-Kelley, verger
Patrick Richardson, Joe Paulini, Bob Brents, guitars and vocals; Susan McGuire, Colleen
McGuire, Danielle Stephan, vocals
Kathy Paulini, Eucharistic Minister
Peggy Miller, Corinne Mertes, Ushers
Pastoral Care Team Members
Randy McGuire, AV and streaming
Lolly Mixter, altar guild
Reception, ECW members

On Grief

When you lose someone you love,
Your life becomes strange,
The ground beneath you becomes fragile,
Your thoughts make your eyes unsure;
And some dead echo drags your voice down
Where words have no confidence
Your heart has grown heavy with loss;
And though this loss has wounded others too,
No one knows what has been taken from you
When the silence of absence deepens.

Flickers of guilt kindle regret
For all that was left unsaid or undone.

There are days when you wake up happy;
Again inside the fullness of life,
Until the moment breaks
And you are thrown back
Onto the black tide of loss.
Days when you have your heart back,
You are able to function well
Until in the middle of work or encounter,
Suddenly with no warning,
You are ambushed by grief.

It becomes hard to trust yourself.
All you can depend on now is that
Sorrow will remain faithful to itself.
More than you, it knows its way
And will find the right time
To pull and pull the rope of grief
Until that coiled hill of tears
Has reduced to its last drop.

Gradually, you will learn acquaintance
With the invisible form of your departed;
And when the work of grief is done,
The wound of loss will heal
And you will have learned
To wean your eyes
From that gap in the air
And be able to enter the hearth
In your soul where your loved one
Has awaited your return
All the time.

--John O'Donahue



Susan Coar van der Veer

We are saddened to announce the passing of Susan Coar van der Veer on March 19, 2026. Susan is survived by her son, Christopher R. van der Veer of Reston, VA, her brother, Robert M. Coar of Crofton, MD, and her mother, Helen M. Coar of Safety Harbor, FL. She was preceded in death by her father, George H. Coar.

After earning her bachelor's degree from Penn State, she attended and graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a master's in Systems Engineering. She spent over 30 years working as a civilian engineer for the US Navy and Department of Defense. Susan co-founded the Fairfax Coin Club and some of her other hobbies included photography, traveling, and feeding her backyard birds.

A service will be held on April 18, 2026, at 11am at the Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of the Holy Comforter, the Nature Conservancy, or the American Cancer Society.

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.