

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE

of

Polly Schwendener

June 12, 1926 - December 20, 2020

Saturday, September 18, 2021



St. Katherine's Episcopal Church
Williamston, Michigan

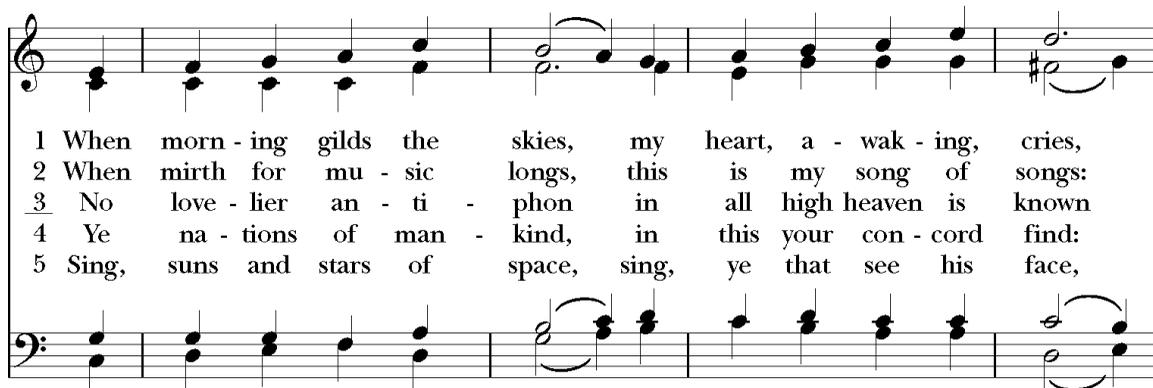
The Reverend Canon Ronald C. Byrd, Sr., Presiding



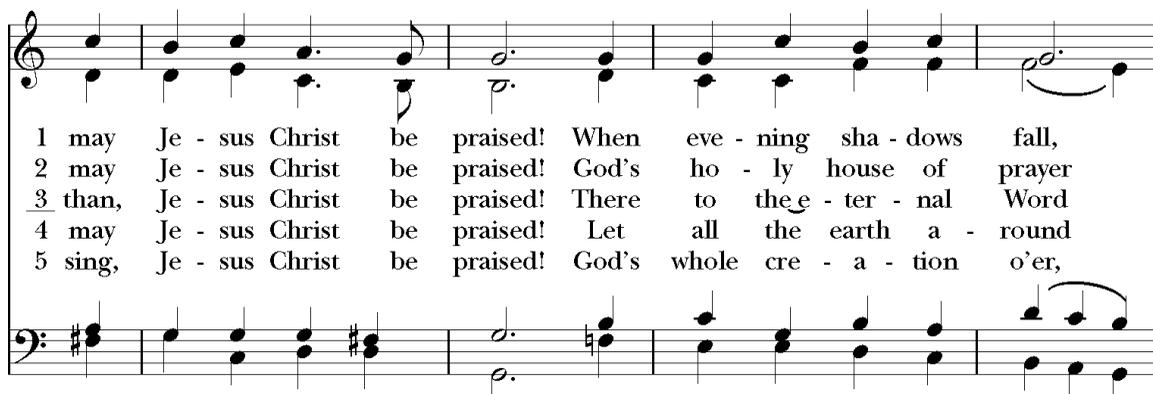
Polly Schwendener
June 12, 1926 - December 20, 2020

Polly was born Clara Elnora Walker in 1926 in Coldwater, Michigan, daughter of John H. and Gretchen Walker. A brother, Jack, died in 1966. Polly remained deeply attached to Coldwater, and to the family cottage on Coldwater Lake. After graduating from high school in 1944, Polly earned a BA at Duke University. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Post-college she worked in Chicago for Carson Pirie Scott & Co. as an editor of the house newspaper, before returning to Coldwater to work as a local reporter for the Battle Creek Enquirer. In 1953 she met Benjamin Schwendener Jr. of Union City, a recent graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. They were married in 1955, and began wedded life in Colorado where Ben was stationed in the Army. In 1957, after Ben left the Army and began practicing law in Lansing, they moved to Okemos where the three boys were born and attended public schools. Polly later worked for Uniforce helping people to find short-term employment. In her time Polly played many parts, and she performed all exceptionally well. Above all, she was a friend to the many in Coldwater, Lansing, and elsewhere who were fortunate to know her. During WWII she began writing to a girl her age in England. That friendship, like many others, became a lifelong affair. Her friendships were precious to her. She was a dedicated member of the Junior League, the Lansing Woman's Club, The MSU Choral Union, the Okemos Barn Theater, the Great Books Club, and especially Saint Katherine's Episcopal Church in Williamston. Her volunteer and charitable activities were wide, and included Camp Highfields, Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, and Forster Woods Adult Day Center (a project of St Katherine's.) For all who knew her, she will be remembered for her energetic, cheerful, and generous personality.

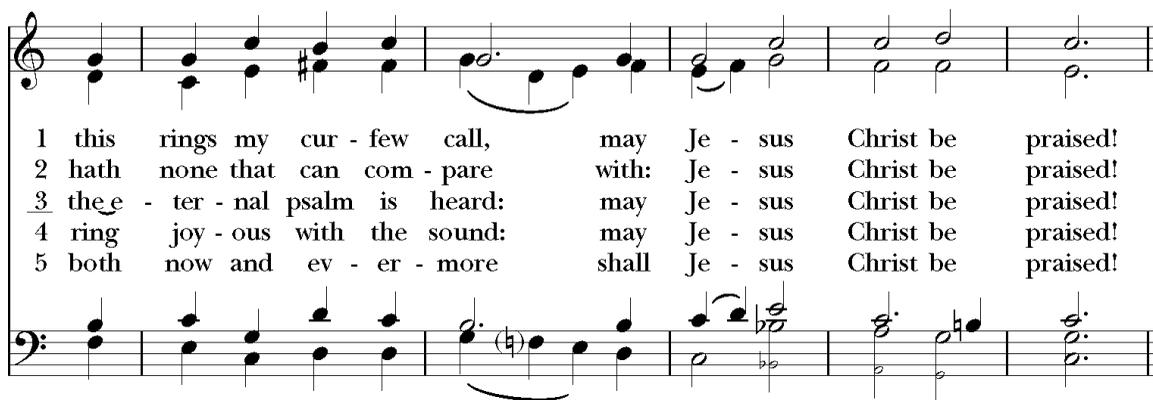
Polly is survived by husband Ben, sons Peter (Chicago), Paul (New York), Ben (Boston) and their wives Joanne, Barbara, and Shari, grandchildren Elodi, Leon, Uli, Lily, Maddy and Blue, nieces Lori Finch, Mary, Susan, and Martha Schwendener, and nephews Arthur Walker and John Schwendener. Contributions in Polly's memory can be made to: Forster Woods Adult Day Center, 4656 N. Meridian Rd., Williamston, MI 48895

When Morning Gilds the Skies


1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
 4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,



1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
 2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word
 4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
 3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray

Silence may be kept;

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Clara Polly Elnora Schwendener. We thank you for giving Polly 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 the Schwendener 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.**

The people sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Old Testament Wisdom 3:1-5,9

Mary Schwendener-Holt

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if to others, indeed, they seem punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

Psalm 139 Domine, probasti

Peter Schwendener

O LORD, thou hast searched me out, and known me. *

Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising;
thou understandest my thoughts long before.

Thou art about my path, and about my bed, *
and art acquainted with all my ways.

For lo, there is not a word in my tongue, *
but thou, O LORD, knowest it altogether.
Thou hast beset me behind and before, *
and laid thine hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me; *
I cannot attain unto it.
Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit? *
or whither shall I go then from thy presence?
If I climb up into heaven, thou art there; *
if I go down to hell, thou art there also.
If I take the wings of the morning, *
and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;
Even there also shall thy hand lead me, *
and thy right hand shall hold me.
If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me, *
then shall my night be turned to day.
Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee,
but the night is as clear as day; *
the darkness and light to thee are both alike.

Quotes on Death by Daisaku Ikeda

Ben Schwendener

We all know that we will die someday. But we cling to that idea of "someday," expecting it to be far off in the future. Young people naturally try to brush aside the thought of death, but this is even true of older people, and perhaps increasingly so as we age.

But the reality of life is that it may come to an end at any moment. The possibility of death is always with us--be it from an earthquake, an accident, or sudden illness. We simply choose to forget this.

Upon reflection, whether death awaits in three days, three years, or three decades, the reality is essentially the same. That's why it is so important to live fully right now, so that we will have no regret if we die at any moment.

Someone who has been at the bedside of many at their last moments has said: "In their final days, it seems that people often recall their lives as if gazing over a vast panorama. What appears to stand out are not things such as having led a company or done well in business, but rather how they have lived their lives, whom they have loved, whom they've been kind to, whom they've hurt. All of their deepest emotions--the feeling of having been true to their beliefs and lived a

fulfilled life, or painful regrets at having betrayed others--rush upon them as they approach death."

Buddhism sees everything in the universe, everything that happens, as part of a vast web of interconnection. The vibrant energy we call life that flows throughout the universe has no beginning and no end. Life is a continuous, dynamic process of change. Why then should human life be the one exception?

In the Buddhist view, the bonds that link people are not a matter of this lifetime alone. And because those who have died in a sense live on within us, our happiness is naturally shared with those who have passed away. So, the most important thing is for those of us who are alive at this moment to live with hope and strive to become happy.

By becoming happy ourselves, we can send invisible 'waves' of happiness to those who have passed away. But if we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by sorrow, the deceased will feel this sorrow too, as we are always together, inseparable.

An awareness of death gives greater meaning to our lives. Awakening to death's reality prompts us to seek the eternal and motivates us to make the most of each moment.

Passage by William Woodsworth
(from: Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey)

Paul Schwendener

Though absent long,
These forms of beauty have not been to me,
As is a landscape to a blind man's eye:
But oft, in lonely rooms, and mid the din
Of towns and cities, I have owed to them,
In hours of weariness, sensations sweet,
Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart,
And passing even into my purer mind
With tranquil restoration: — feelings too
Of unremembered pleasure; such, perhaps,
As may have had no trivial influence
On that best portion of a good man's life;
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love. Nor less, I trust,
To them I may have owed another gift,
Of aspect more sublime; that blessed mood,

In which the burthen of the mystery,
In which the heavy and the weary weight
Of all this unintelligible world
Is lighten'd: — that serene and blessed mood,
In which the affections gently lead us on,
Until, the breath of this corporeal frame,
And even the motion of our human blood
Almost suspended, we are laid asleep
In body, and become a living soul:
While with an eye made quiet by the power
Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,
We see into the life of things.

Musical Interlude

Ben Schwendener

The Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ according to John

John 14:1-6

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.

Homily

The Reverend Canon Ronald C. Byrd, Sr.

Eulogies

Zoe Slagle & Marilyn Laughlin
Peter Schwendener
Ben Schwendener
Paul Schwendener

Please Stand

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

**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.**

The Prayers by the Lay Eucharistic Minister

Beckie Corner

For our sister *Polly*, 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 *Polly*, 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 *Polly*, eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister *Polly*, to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our sister *Polly* was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give *Polly* fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

Polly 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 *Polly*; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence may be kept.

The Celebrant concludes with the following prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister *Polly*, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that *Polly's* 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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord and the love of our risen Savior be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

Beckie Corner

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. ***Amen.***

Jesus Christ is risen today

Descant

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts:
 Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
 Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others

who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

People and Celebrant

The Lord's Prayer

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 Fraction

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. **Alleluia.**

The Prayer of Humble Access

The congregation will read with clergy

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

The Gifts of God for the people of God.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) 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(s) 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 *Polly*. 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.*

Congregation joins procession to Columbarium (remember to bring your service bulletin)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!
 *2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

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

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 Polly*, (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. *Amen*.

The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

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.**

The Blessing

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 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 Schwendener family invites you to join us for a reception following the service.

Because I could not stop for Death

(composed ca. 1863)

Emily Dickinson

Because I could not stop for Death –
He kindly stopped for me –
The Carriage held but just Ourselves –
And Immortality.

We slowly drove – He knew no haste
And I had put away
My labor and my leisure too,
For His Civility –

We passed the School, where Children strove
At Recess – in the Ring –
We passed the Fields of Gazing Grain –
We passed the Setting Sun –

Or rather – He passed Us –
The Dews drew quivering and Chill –
For only Gossamer¹, my Gown –
My Tippet² – only Tulle³ –

We paused before a House that seemed
A Swelling of the Ground –
The Roof was scarcely visible –
The Cornice – in the Ground –

Since then – 'tis Centuries – and yet
Feels shorter than the Day
I first surmised the Horses' Heads
Were toward Eternity –

1. A soft sheer fabric.

2. Scarf

3. A fine net fabric.

St. Katherine's Episcopal Church
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