

**In celebration of the life of  
James W. Shelar  
1943 – 2019**

**The Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
205 S. Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877  
Memorial Service  
July 8, 2019**



**"And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils."**

*- William Wordsworth*

## **PRELUDE**

**Hymn at the Processional 1982 Hymnal**

**# 688 “A mighty fortress”**

*Celebrant:*

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.

**Words of 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 brother Jim. We thank you for giving him to us, his 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 Shelar 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.**

*Please be seated*

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-8,14)**

*Reader: Cindy Long  
(Jim's sister-in-law)*

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather  
stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor

anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

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

**Psalm 100**, read responsively

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;  
    **serve the Lord with gladness**  
    **and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God;  
    **he himself has made us, and we are his;**  
    **we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise;  
    **give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;  
    **and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**A reading from Roman's** (8:18-19,35,37-39)

*Reader: Robert Shelar*  
*(Jim's brother)*

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, 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.

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

**Hymn: 1982 Hymnal**      # 657 “Love divine, all loves excelling” verses 1 and 2

**The Gospel**

*Then, all standing, the Minister appointed reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 14: 1-6

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“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, Lord Christ.**

**Hymn: 1982 Hymnal**      # 657 “Love divine, all loves excelling” verse 3

*Please be seated*

**Remembrances and Reflections**

*By* **Todd Shelar.**

**Homily**

*By* **The Rev. Karen B. Johnson**

*The Apostles' Creed may then be said, all standing. The Celebrant may introduce the Creed with these or similar words*

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

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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**

For our brother Jim 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 Jim 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 brother eternal life.

**Hear us, Lord.**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of  
heaven.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him  
fellowship with all your saints.

**Hear us, Lord.**

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

A Thomas Merton Prayer requested by Jim, said by all:

**My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire and I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.**

*Celebrant:* Father of all, we pray to you for Jim, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also, with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord and are then seated.*

## **Announcements**

## **Offertory Sentence**

*Celebrant:* Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.

## The Holy Communion

*In this prayer, the lines in **Bold** are spoken by the People*

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob, Rachel, and Leah; 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.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

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.

*The people sit.*

*During administration of communion Todd Shelar will play:*

*“Capricho Arabe”*

*“Julia Florida”*

*by Francisco Tárrega*

*by Augustín Barrios*

## **Prayer after Communion, *All Standing***

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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**

*The ministers take their places at the urn.*

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.**

*Celebrant:* Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant James. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him 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 Celebrant, may then bless the people, and then dismiss them, saying*

And now may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you and with all those you love, wherever they may be, this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*As the urn is borne from the church this anthem is said and all process to the columbarium for the Committal.*

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.

## The Consecration of a Grave

O God, whose blessed Son was laid in a sepulcher in the garden: Bless, we pray, this grave, and grant that he whose body is to be buried here may dwell with Christ in paradise, and may come to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother James, and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

*Celebrant:* Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

*People:* **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

*Celebrant:* May his 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*

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.**

*Clergy*

The Reverend Javier Garcia Ocampo, Rector of Church of the Ascension  
The Reverend Karen B. Johnson, retired Priest and friend of the Shelar family

*Organist*, Andrew Kullberg

*Acolyte*, Paul Whitmore

*Eucharistic Ministers*, Sari Stoddaard, Bob Waters

*First Reader*, Cindy Long, Jim's sister-in-law, Sandy's sister

*Second Reader*, Robert Shelar, Jim's brother

Guitarist and Speaker of the Remembrances, Todd Shelar, Jim's son

**James W. Shelar  
1943-2019**

Jim Shelar and his family were long time parishioners at Ascension. He and his wife Sandy were both active in many areas of our church life. Jim taught Sunday School, served as co-chair of a rector search committee, acted as vestry secretary, served two vestry terms, worked on the outreach committee, to name a few.

Jim passed away peacefully on Saturday night, June 29<sup>th</sup> at Gilchrist Hospice Center. He was surrounded by his family throughout the day – wife Sandy, son Todd, daughter Kimberly, son-in-law Gerald, grandson Jack and his brother Robert.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in Jim’s memory may be considered for Cancer Research Foundation, P.O. Box 217, Riverdale, NY 10471, [www.TheCRF.org](http://www.TheCRF.org) or Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, 3300 Whitehaven Street NW, Washington, DC 20007, [www.lombardi.georgetown.edu/giving](http://www.lombardi.georgetown.edu/giving)

*“Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.  
And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.  
And when the Earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.”*

*—Kahlil Gibran*  
The Prophet