

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
OF
JOHNETTA OLIVIA MARS-GIBSON

SUNRISE: JUNE 14, 1968 - SUNSET: JUNE 27, 2020



MEMORIAL SERVICE
AUGUST 8, 2020

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND

The Burial of the Dead:

All stand during the processional while the following anthem is said.

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
All who have faith in me shall have life,
even though they die.
And all who have life,
and have committed themselves 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 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.



The Celebrant then says

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 Johnetta. 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 the family of Johnetta Olivia Mars-Gibson 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 Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Chloe Rogers (niece)

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace



from all the earth.
The Lord has spoken.

In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the Lord, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”
Here what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 121

Semone Lewis (niece)

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.



Second Reading

Matthew 11: 28- 30

Johnetta “Tina” Dennis (niece)

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew

Jesus said: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Here what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“It is Well with My Soul”

Soloist: **Jhas Porte** (niece)

Pianist: *Andrew Kullberg*

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

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

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

John 11:21-27

The Rev. Javier G Ocampo

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”



27 “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflections

Life Sketch

Yvette Chesson-Gibson (mother)

Song

“Don’t Cry for Me”

Performed by Cece Winans

Tributes

Pschopelius “Peedy” N. Terry (son)
The Church of the Ascension Family

Sermon

The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

The Apostles’ Creed

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

Celebrant and People

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 Celebrant says

The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 of the People

For our sister Johnetta, 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 Johnetta, 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 eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

She 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; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. And now let us pray together:

The Celebrant concludes with following prayer

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

The Commendation

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.**

The Celebrant says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Johnetta. 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 Celebrant may then bless the people, and dismiss them, saying

May the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be upon you and remain with you this day and forever more. Amen.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

