

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
OF
NANCY LAFIELD SNEE
APRIL 25, 1947 - FEBRUARY 9, 2021



MEMORIAL SERVICE
MARCH 20, 2021

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND

The Burial of the Dead:

Opening Song:

Before the Sun Burned Bright

All remain standing 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 Nancy. We thank you for giving her 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 her 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 Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33

A reading from the book of Lamentations

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

For the Lord will not
cast off forever,

but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

Here what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

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.

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.

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.

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from the book of Revelation

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne

and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Here what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence:

Eye Has Not Seen

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

Gospel

John 14:1-6

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

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

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone

who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Eulogy

NANCY LAFIELD SNEE

On behalf of Jim, I want to thank everyone for being here today and those on Zoom that cannot be here to join in the celebration of Nancy’s life.

Some of you have known Nancy for a long time and others only the last twenty years. Nancy was smart, kind, loving, and compassionate; pretty much all the good words anyone could think.

During the war Nancy’s father, Bill, was a US Army Captain when he met a beautiful French girl in Orlean, France. They got married as the war was ending. Nancy's mother, Madeline, was concerned about the security of any French women dating or married to a US or German soldier because of culture, language, and security. Madeline was issued a US Army German Shepherd for safety because she was married to a US officer; she did not go anywhere without her guard dog.

After the war, Nancy’s father was transferred to multiple locations within Europe, but his last location was in support of the rehabilitation of concentration camp survivors. At this time Madeline was transferred to Texas where her in-laws were living.

Bill’s parents were living on an Army base in Texas, he was a Colonel in the Army. Madeline lived with them until he returned to Texas months later bringing the German Shepherd. The dog became a family pet for years to come. This is where Nancy was born on March 25, 1947.

Then Nancy's father was transferred to Washington, DC and Nancy attended elementary school in Virginia. They were posted to Orlean, France where Nancy attended an Army elementary school. Most of the teachers in the school were French citizens. She was taught several classes in French and learned to speak the language fluently.

After a few years, they were posted to South Bend, Indiana, where Bill became an ROTC Commandant at Purdue University. They were reassigned to Virginia and returned to Texas. The next posting was back to Orlean, France. Nancy attended 7th, 8th, 9th, and part of 10th grade in the French school. The family then went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The high school had 80% of the boys within ROTC. Here Nancy took on an important role in supporting anybody that needed support. She was elected Chairman of the Cadet Sponsors (female students that supported the ROTC Cadets and escorted them on many ceremonies). Upon high school graduation they returned to San Antonio. Nancy's Dad made college plans for her, but she did not want to go because she met a young man.

Nancy moved to Washington, DC, because she got a position in the CIA. Shortly after this she was married. After many years, she left the CIA and started a family. They had two children, Randy and Michelle.

When the children were in high school, she returned to college. Nancy and her husband decided to end their marriage and got divorced. During this time, she was a member of the Vestry in an Episcopal Church in Herndon, Virginia, and assisted with many community functions.

In 1997, her life changed, when she joined New Beginnings, a marital separation support group for separated and divorced men and women. On her fifth day after moving out of her marital home, Nancy attended a New Beginnings "Pig Roast Picnic." At this picnic she was introduced by one of her friends to Jim. Jim said, "Hi Nancy, how are you?" To which she replied, "I am fine." Jim replied "You sure are."

New Beginnings and Parent's Without Partner's held dances and while she was at both dances, she saw Jim again. Jim confused her because every ten minutes he was dancing with a new partner, but he went home alone. The following Friday, Nancy went to a New Beginnings discussion meeting and Jim was there. After the meeting Jim asked Nancy for her phone number so he could see her again; she gave him her work number.

On Sunday morning Jim wanted to invite Nancy to a New Beginnings picnic but he only had her work number. He contacted many New Beginnings members trying to get Nancy's home number. Two-and one-half hours later he got her number and invited her to the picnic later that day. After the picnic Jim asked her for another date on Monday, then on Tuesday, then on Wednesday, and subsequently for eleven days thereafter.

On the twelfth day her parents had arranged for her to meet them in Vancouver to go on an Alaskan cruise. They wanted to give her a vacation after her divorce. She arrived at the dock all peppy and smiling about how good life was. When she returned to Dulles airport, Jim met her and they were talking about marriage.

Later that summer Nancy graduated from Park University. The ceremony was held at Fort Meyer, Virginia (a branch campus) with her Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science.

In October Jim told Nancy he would be skiing during the winter in Pennsylvania for three weekends a month. He invited her to go with him. The next weekend she went shopping for a \$1,000 worth of ski clothes and equipment.

In November 1997, Jim's daughter, Shannon, was getting married in Minnesota. He told Shannon he would be bringing a young lady he was going to marry.

Jim and Nancy were married on June 27, 1998, here in this church, at this altar. They attended services here for ten years before she got sick. Nancy was active in church events, neighborhood activities, and key focal point for many social gatherings.

Nancy has a son, Randy in Florida, and a daughter Michelle in Pennsylvania.

Jim has two daughters in Minnesota, Shannon and Kris. They each have three children: Ian, Owen, Ethan, Courtney, Jordan, and Hailey. They called Nancy "Grandma Fancy" because when Ian, at age four, met Nancy, he gave her this very special name.

Nancy was a Government Contractor. She started as a computer technician and worked her way up to be a program manager of a large database software team. Nancy inspired her team of eighteen foreign born technicians that had English as a second language. She supported multiple functions within HHS, CIA, and DEA Agencies.

After nine years of blissful marriage, Nancy was not herself. She was making unreasonable comments about life, getting confused, and argued, something they never did. This was not the Nancy Jim married. Another time she was out driving and could not find her way home. In 2008 she was diagnosed with Frontotemporal Degeneration, a terminal brain disease. Two years later Jim placed her into a nursing facility, where she finished her life not understanding what was happening or who was visiting her for the last three years. On February 9th she went to sleep and a few hours later stopped breathing. Nancy was 73 years old.

Nancy was loved by everyone who met her. She inspired many to meet challenges they did not know they could overcome. Always there to support anybody that needed help. The doctors and nurses at the nursing home told Jim, she will always be in their hearts for her sweet demeanor and will never be forgotten.

Nancy was beautiful inside and out when she smiled her face lit up. She loved being around people, always ready to have fun. Nancy was everything to Jim and he feels so blessed to have had her as his wife. Jim loved Nancy with all his heart and the feelings were mutual.

Jim will miss Nancy and does not know how he will make it without her. He knows that now she has no more pain and suffering. Nancy is at peace looking down on him and waiting for him to join her and they will be one again.

Jim loved Nancy with all his heart, and he knows that everyone here loved her too.

We all will miss her and her beautiful smile. "I'll see you soon sweetheart."

Song: Lets kiss and say good bye

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 Prayers of the People

For our Sister Nancy, 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 Nancy, 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

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our Sister Nancy, 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. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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:

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We love you above all, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Post-Communion

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 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 Nancy. 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

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

Closing Song:

Someday We'll be Together