

**The Requiem Eucharist  
in Celebration of the Life and Legacy  
of  
P. Wesley Foster Jr.  
November 25, 1933 - March 17, 2023**



**Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

**1:30 PM**

**Rector**

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

**Assistant Rector**

The Reverend Christopher Phillips

**Director of Music**

Jeff Kempskie

## PRELUDE MUSIC

Pavane

Gabriel Fauré

Sarah Foard, violin, Eric Ulreich, guitar, Henry Stubbs, cello  
From Levine Music

*As the procession enters the Nave, all, as able, please stand.*

## POEM

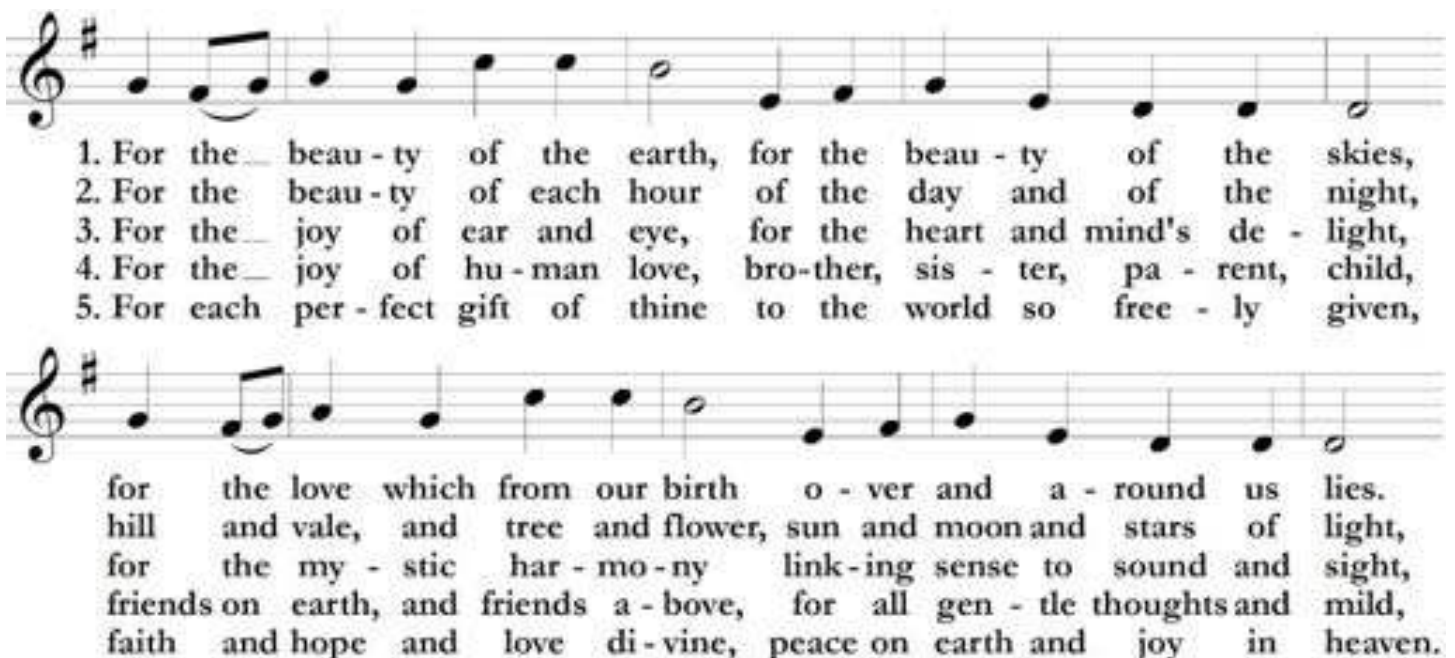
Let Us Be Honest With Death

A. Powell Davies

Let us be honest with death.  
Let us not pretend that it is less than it is.  
It is separation. It is sorrow. It is grief.  
But let us neither pretend that death is more than it is.  
It is not annihilation.  
As long as memory endures, his influence will be felt.  
It is not an end to love –  
Humanity's need for love from each of us is boundless.  
It is not an end to joy and laughter –  
Nothing would less honor one so vibrant  
Than to make our lives drab in counterfeit respect;  
Let us be honest with death, for in that honesty  
We will understand him better  
And ourselves more deeply.

## HYMN 416 For the beauty of the earth

*Dix*



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4. For the joy of hu - man love, bro - ther, sis - ter, pa - rent, child,  
5. For each per - fect gift of thine to the world so free - ly given,  
for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies.  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
for the my - stic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,  
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
faith and hope and love di - vine, peace on earth and joy in heaven.



## THE COLLECT

God be with you.  
And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God of grace and glory, we remember this day our brother Wes. 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST READING From the Writings of James Rowe Adams

Over the years, many people have abandoned Christianity because their teachers and preachers were metaphorically disabled. If there is another reality beyond the one people can see, touch and feel, that realm can be reached most effectively through fantasy, and fantasy's partners – metaphors and extended metaphors such as art, poetry, drama, music, dance and myth. Like knotholes in a fence around a construction site, metaphors allow the curious to peek into the realm of God.

Once people discover that religious language is primarily figurative by nature, the experience of faith can open up for them. You can be a follower of Jesus without thinking that “heaven” is a place, that a “son” has to be a biological relative, or that “dead” necessarily refers to the condition you're in when the undertaker comes for you.

When I die, if you need to weep  
Cry for your brother or sister  
Walking in the street beside you.  
And when you need me,  
Put your arms around anyone  
And give them what you need to give me.

I want to leave you something,  
Something better than words or sounds.

Look for me in the people I have known and loved,  
And if you cannot give me away,  
At least let me live in your eyes and in your giving,  
And not restlessly on you mind.

You can love me by letting hands touch hands  
By letting bodies touch bodies  
And by letting go of those who need to be free.

Love doesn't die,  
People do.  
So when all that's left of me is love,  
Give me away.

*All, as able, please stand.*

**THE GOSPEL** Matthew 6:25-34

The Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you Lord Christ.**

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,

will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel of Jesus.

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

*The people sit.*

**MUSIC** Deep River

African American Spiritual

William Flanders, soloist

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan,  
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.  
Oh, don’t you want to go to that gospel feast,  
That promised land where all is peace?*

## **REFLECTIONS**

Boomer Foster

Rod Lawrence

Paul Foster

## **THE HOMILY**

The Reverend Michele Morgan

**MUSIC** Ashokan Farewell

Music by Jay Ungar

Sarah Foard, violin, Eric Ulreich, guitar, Henry Stubbs, cello  
From Levine Music

*The people stand.*

## **PRAYERS**

St. John Chrysostom

He whom we love and lose  
Is no longer where he was before.  
He is now wherever we are.  
**He is with us wherever we go.**

## THE PEACE

May the peace of God be with you.  
And also with you.

*All, one with another, exchange a sign of peace.*

## WELCOME

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SOLO Wade in the Water

African American Spiritual  
arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Rob Hall, soloist

Refrain: *Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,  
Wade in the water, God's a-gonna trouble the water.*

*See that band all dressed in white, God's a-gonna trouble the water.  
The leader looks like the Israelite, God's a-gonna trouble the water. Refrain*

*See that band all dressed in red, God's a-gonna trouble the water.  
Looks like the band that Moses led, God's a-gonna trouble the water. Refrain*

*Look over yonder, what do I see? God's a-gonna trouble the water.  
The Holy Ghost a-coming on me, God's a-gonna trouble the water. Refrain*

*If you don't believe I've been redeemed, God's a-gonna trouble the water.  
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream, God's a-gonna trouble the water. Refrain*

*The people stand, as able.*

## A EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Written by William Flanders

God, you are with us.  
You are always with us.  
May we open our hearts.  
May we know your presence.  
In thanksgiving,  
and in deepest honor.

To you, our spiritual father and mother, we bring ourselves: all that we are, and all that we are not.

Holy God, we honor you in whom our lives are founded, and in whom our futures lie. We remember and honor also the human searching over the centuries that has perceived your presence in life, and your meaning for all of life.

Above all we honor Jesus, our Christ, whose life and death reveal to us, as his resurrection, the full nature of your being and the potential nature of ours.

We remember that, on the night before his death, Jesus, as he'd always done, gathered his friends for a common meal. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave some to each one, saying: "Take, eat: This is my body given for you and for everyone. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took a 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 which is shed for you and for everyone. Drink this in remembrance of me."

In light of this, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ's spirit renews our lives.**

Holy God, may our hearts and minds be alive to what is sacred in these symbols of bread and wine. May they open us to your guidance and to your love for us, for all humankind, and for all life on this earth. This is our hope, our common will, and the expression of our love and trust in Jesus, our Christ.

**Amen.**

And now, in the spirit of Christ's teaching, we pray:  
**Creator God,**  
**we love and honor you,**  
**we pray for your presence**  
**and ask for your guidance**  
**in our lives and throughout the world.**  
**May your love be our deepest need,**  
**especially when we don't love and even hurt others.**  
**And may our love be forgiving of others**  
**when they hurt us.**  
**Strengthen our resolve to resist harmful temptations,**  
**strengthen our courage to face up to evil.**  
**Your promise of life fulfilled is our greatest hope. Amen.**

Christ has died and lives for all.  
**May we not forsake him.**

These are God's gift, take Jesus our Christ into your hearts.  
This bread: the body of Christ.  
This wine: the blood of Christ.

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table set before us and for all and this bread and wine as God's food for us and for all. Therefore whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe,  
**All are welcome and invited to receive. Amen!**

## THE COMMUNION

*St. Mark's receives communion "in the round" as a symbol of our strong belief in the power of community.*

*You will be offered bread by a celebrant, and invited to drink from the common cup.  
Please refrain from intincting (dipping) the host (the bread) into the wine.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Here Is Bread and Here Is Wine

Words & Music by William Flanders



1. Here is bread and here is wine, food and drink we sa - vor with de - light;  
2. Here is bread and here is flesh, here a bo - dy bro - ken and re - stored.  
3. Here is wine and here is blood. Here is life in ev - er - last - ing flow.  
4. Here is food and here is strength. Here a prom - ise and e - ter - nal bond.

now up - on this al - tar blessed, mov - ing us be - yond our taste and sight.  
Here a mind and here a voice. Here the per - son that we call our lord.  
Here e - mo - tion, here re - solve. Here the spi - rit in whose care we grow.  
Here re - new - al, here re - lease. Here a love to which our hearts re - spond.



1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to  
 2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a  
 3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with  
 4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou - sand spent a -



me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -  
 nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and  
 springs, and they shall climb from height to height till  
 way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor



in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and  
 praise thee with - out rest, my and hap - py they whose  
 Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in  
 from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly



flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee,  
 hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest,  
 glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings,  
 bless all those who live the words they pray,

*The people stand.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**We thank you, for all the blessings of this table: for the life-giving story, the living bread and the wine of new creation. Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal, to tell the Good News to neighbors and strangers with creative words and compassionate service, walking the way of Christ. Amen.**

## **THE COMMENDATION**

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Wes with your saints,  
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind; 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 Wes 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 Wes. 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.**

Let us pray, saying together:

**O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered:  
Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **PROCESSION TO THE COLUMBARIUM**

## THE COMMITTAL

Everyone that God 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 Ashes are placed in the niche.*

We commend to Almighty God our brother Wes, and we commit his body to this resting place. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. O God, bless him and keep him, make your face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, lift up your countenance upon him and give him peace.

**Amen.**

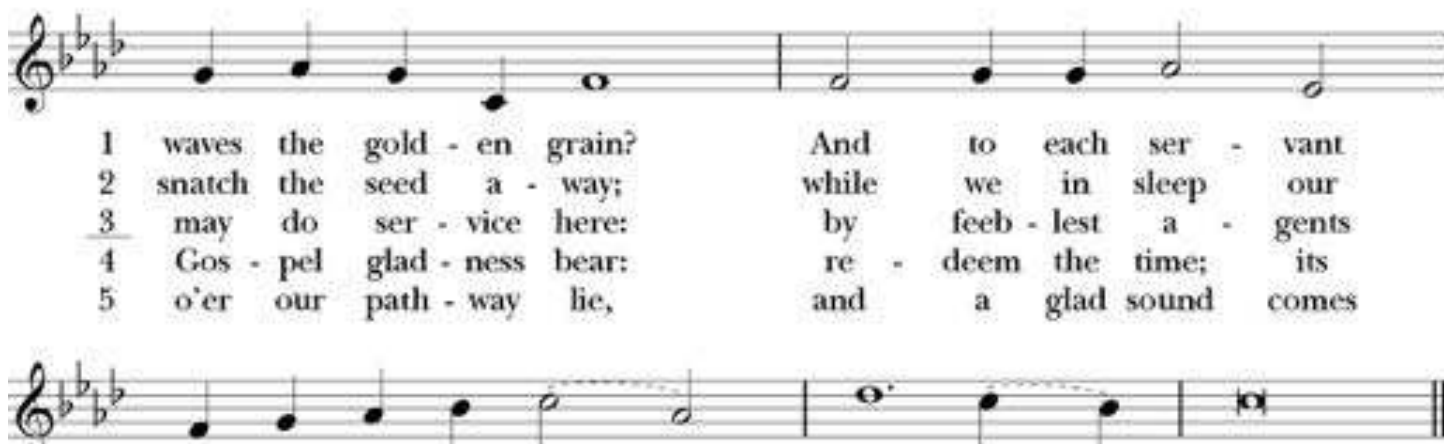
## HYMN 541 Come, labor on

*Ora Labora*



1 Come, la - bor on. Who dares stand i - dle  
2 Come, la - bor on. The en - e - my is  
3 Come, la - bor on. A - way with gloom - y  
4 Come, la - bor on. Claim the high call - ing  
5 Come, la - bor on. No time for rest, till

1 on the har - vest plain, while all a - round us  
2 watch - ing night and day, to sow the tares, to  
3 doubts and faith - less fear! No arm so weak but  
4 an - gels can - not share— to young and old the  
5 glows the west - ern sky, till the long sha - dows



1 waves the gold - en grain? And to each ser - vant  
 2 snatch the seed a - way; while we in sleep our  
 3 may do ser - vice here: by feeb - lest a - gents  
 4 Gos - pel glad - ness bear: re - deem the time; its  
 5 o'er our path - way lie, and a glad sound comes

1 does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."  
 2 du - ty have for - got, he slum - bered not.  
 3 may our God ful - fill his right - eous will.  
 4 hours too swift - ly fly, The night draws nigh.  
 5 with the set - ting sun, "Ser - vants, well done."

## THE BLESSING

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

Go into the world and know how much a tired and hurting world needs your strength and gladness, for there are deeds of compassion and courage that will never be done unless you do them; and words of hope and healing that will never be spoken unless you speak them. And now let us go forth into the world in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** Amazing Grace

VMI Bagpiper

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*All are invited to join the family for refreshments and remembrance in Baxter Hall.*

## Liturgical Leaders & Worship Participants

|                              |                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Presider                     | The Reverend Christopher Phillips                                                                                          |
| Homilist                     | The Reverend Michele H. Morgan                                                                                             |
| Director of Music & Organist | Jeff Kempskie                                                                                                              |
| Soloists                     | Rob Hall, Bill Flanders                                                                                                    |
| Guest Musicians              | Sarah Foard, Eric Ulreich, Henry Stubbs,                                                                                   |
| Readers                      | Bill Doolittle, <i>first reading</i><br>Rachel Foster, <i>second reading</i><br>Greg Niblett, <i>Prayers of the People</i> |
| Verger                       | Raiford Gaffney and Michael Knipe                                                                                          |
| Altar Guild                  | Gretchen Willson and Susan Sedgewick                                                                                       |
| Bread and Wine               | Bill and Josie Jordan                                                                                                      |
| Flowers                      | Penny Farley                                                                                                               |
| Crucifer                     | Doris Burton                                                                                                               |
| Ushers                       | Greg Niblett, Bill Doolittle, Peter Mosley, Ed Kneedler,<br>Peter Sherer, Nat White                                        |
| Technical Director           | Christoph Berendes                                                                                                         |
| Video Director               | Elin Whitney-Smith                                                                                                         |



## Acknowledgements & Permissions

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**P. Wesley Foster Jr.**  
**November 25, 1933 - March 17, 2023**

