# The Requiem Eucharist in Celebration of the Life and Legacy of

# B. Raiford Gaffney

August 25, 1943 - July 5, 2024



August 10, 2024 1:00 PM

**Assistant Rector** 

The Reverend Caitlin Frazier

Liturgy & Pastoral Associate
The Reverend Patricia Catalano

Deacon

The Reverend Thom Sinclair

**Director of Music**Jeff Kempskie

#### PRELUDE MUSIC

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

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Holy One. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though they die. And those 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, my Redeemer will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold the one who is my friend and not a stranger.

For we do not have life in ourselves, and we do not become our own god when we die. For if we have life, we are alive in God, and if we die, we die in God. So, then, whether we live or die, we are God's possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Holy One! So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

HYMN 51 We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting

Decatur Place



#### THE COLLECT

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember this day our sister Raiford. 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 Redeemer. Amen.

The people are seated.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

# THE FIRST READING "Gratitude" by James Crews

Gratitude passes through you like the clouds of mood, like rain turning to sleet or gray skies breaking into blue. It is only gratefulness that stays, holding your trembling hand beneath the hospital sheet as you count each breath, or jumping up and down when you hear good news. It is the faithful companion we have always been seeking, this feeling of fullness that follows us everywhere we go, less like a shadow trailing the body, and more like a glimmer held in the heart that promises never to leave.

#### THE SECOND READING Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.

## **MUSIC** Simple Gifts

# Shaker Song, adap. by Aaron Copland, trans. by Irving Fine Charmian Crawford & Marika Klein, duet

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right

All, as able, please stand.

#### THE GOSPEL Matthew 22:34-40

The Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew.



Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The Gospel of Jesus.



The people sit.

#### REFLECTIONS

Kay Titus (childhood friend)

Martha Connor-Donnelly

Elin Whitney-Smith

#### THE HOMILY

The Reverend Patricia Catalano

MUSIC Entrée de Polimnie from Les Boréades, Act IV, Sc. IV

Jean Philippe Rameau (1683-1764) Transcribed by Flavio Regis Cunha

All, as able, please stand.

#### THE CREED

We believe in God the Creator,
by whom every person in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God:
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

At the rising sun and at its going down; We remember her.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter; We remember her.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring; We remember her.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer; We remember her.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn;

We remember her.

When we are weary and in need of strength;

We remember her.

When we are lost and sick at heart;

We remember her.

For as long as we live, she too will live,

For Raiford is now a part of us, as we remember her.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make;

We remember her.

When we have joy, we crave to share;

We remember her.

When we have achievements that are based on hers;

We remember her.

When our nave fills with beautiful music;

We remember her.

When we pay our taxes on time;

We remember her.

When a purring cat settles in our lap;

We remember her.

When we reach out to another who has less;

We remember her.

For as long as we live, she too will live,

For Raiford is now a part of us, as we remember her.

#### THE PEACE

May the peace of God be always with you.

And also with you.

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

#### WELCOME

### THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

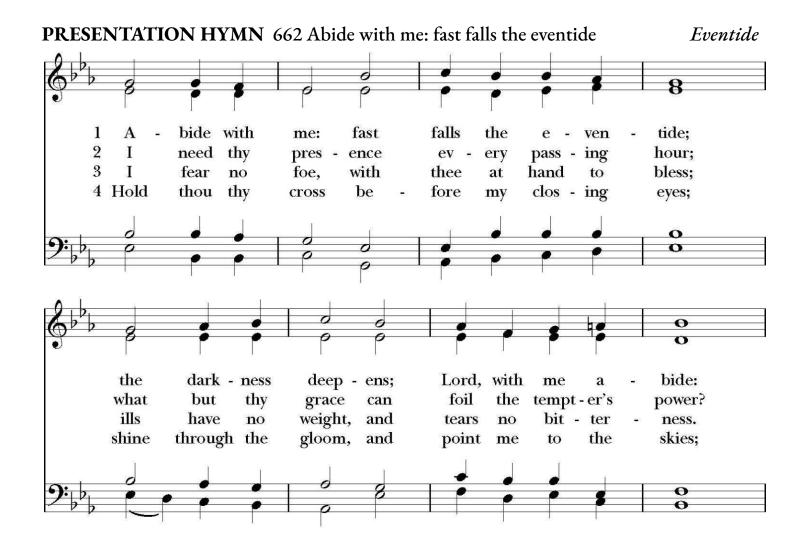
#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

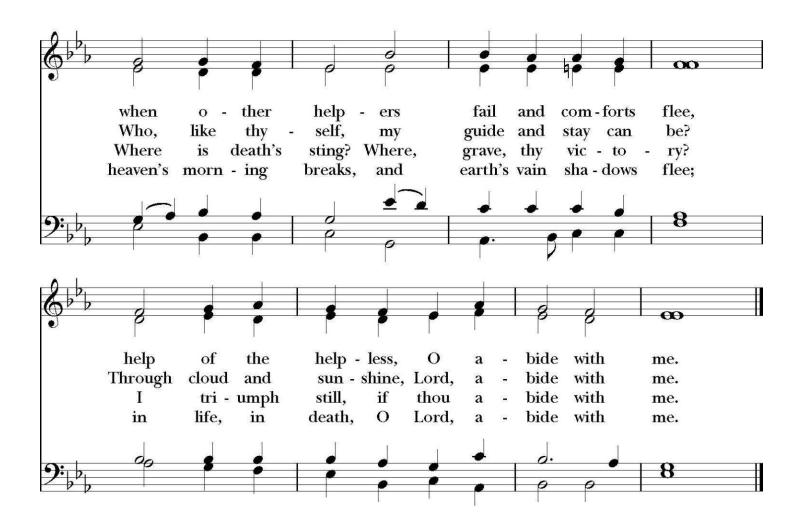
How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place, from *Ein Deutsches Requiem*Members of the Chancel Choir

Johannes Brahms

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!
For my soul, it longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord;
My soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God.
Blest are they that dwell within Thy house; they praise Thy name evermore!

All, as able, please stand.





#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

God is always present.

God is here among us!

Lift up your hearts.

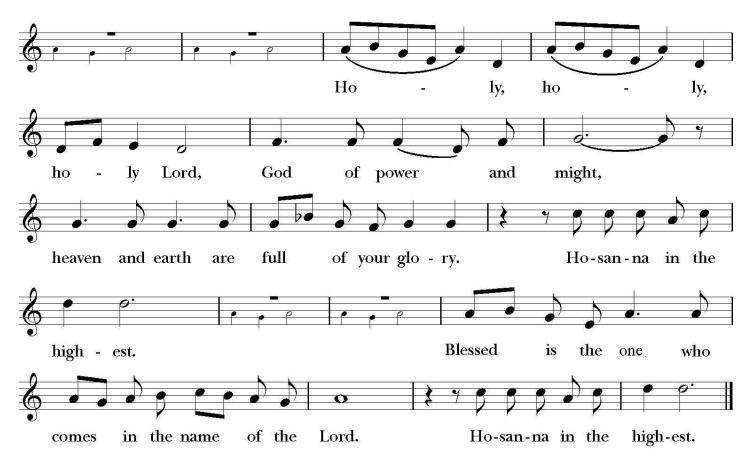
We lift them up to the living God.

Let us give thanks to our sovereign God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to thank you, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ, 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:

SANCTUS S 128 William Mathias



Holy and gracious Mother: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Source of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

# Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may

faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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!** 

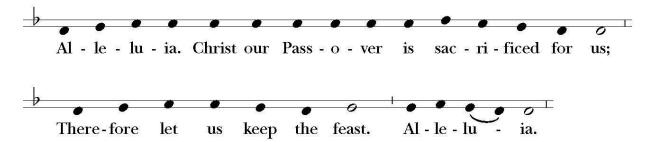
#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as Jesus taught us, we 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.
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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### FRACTION ANTHEM S 152

Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens



#### THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We recognize this as God's table set before us and this bread and wine as God's food for all. Therefore, whoever we are, from wherever we have come, and whatever we believe or do not 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 and invited to drink from the common cup.

Please refrain from intincting (dipping) the host (the bread) into the wine.

#### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

For the Beauty of the Earth

Words by Folliott S. Pierpoint *Dix*, by Conrad Kocher, arr. Phillip Keveren

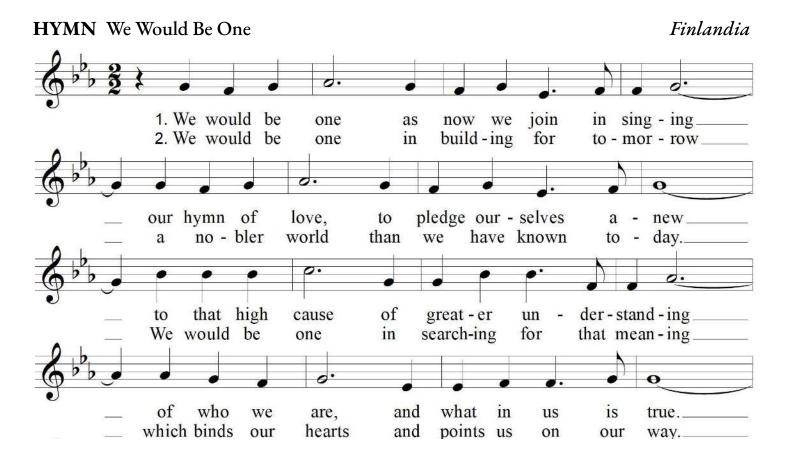
# Members of the Chancel Choir; Matthew Viator, piano

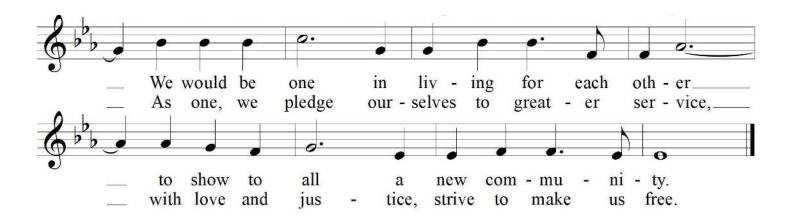
For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies. For the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child. Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

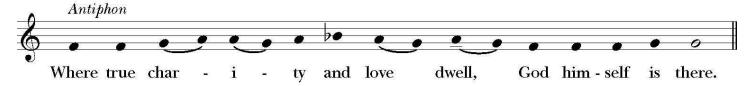
For Thyself, best Gift Divine! To our race so freely giv'n; For that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

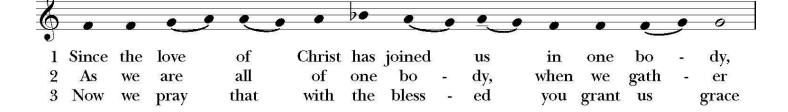


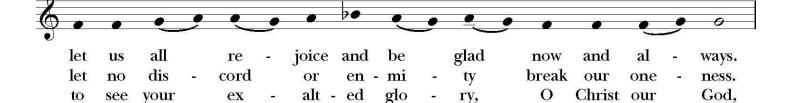


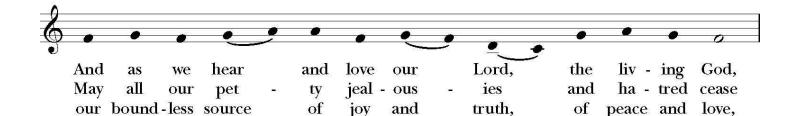
# HYMN 606 Where true charity and love dwell

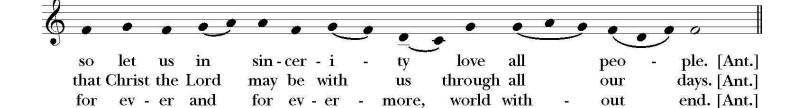
Ubi caritas











#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Raiford 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 Raiford 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 Raiford. 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.

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

As members of "Team Raiford" process to the Columbarium, the congregation remains in place, turns towards the chapel, and sings.



#### THE COMMITTAL

Everyone that God gives to me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through God's indwelling Spirit.

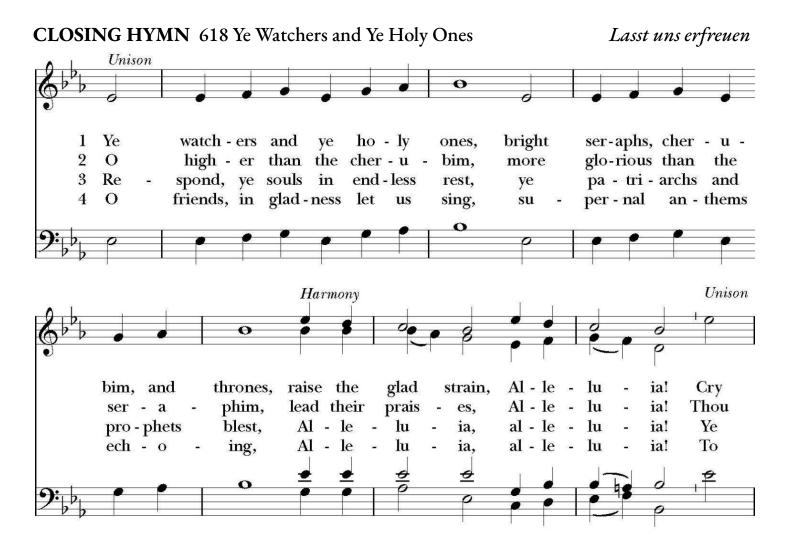
My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope

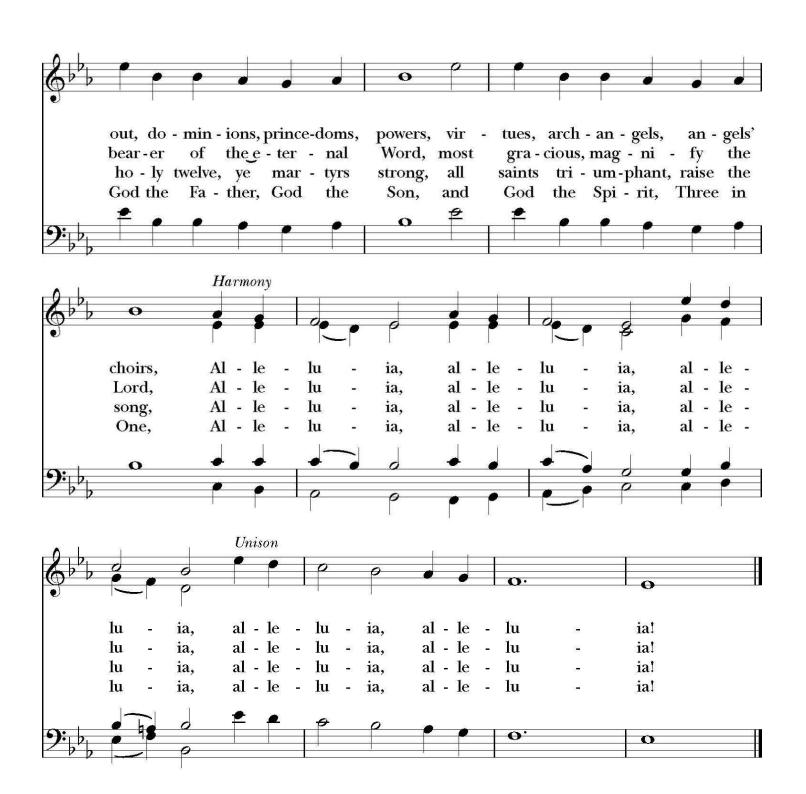
You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

# The Ashes are placed in the niche.

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Raiford and we commit her body to this resting place. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. O God, bless her and keep her, make your face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, lift up your countenance upon her and give her peace.

Amen.





#### PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS AND THE BLESSING

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.

The blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever.

Amen.

#### **DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** Excerpt from Piêce d'orgue, BWV 572

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

\* \* \*

All are invited to Baxter Hall immediately following the service for a reception and opportunity to share remembrances.

# Liturgical Leaders & Worship Participants

**Presider** The Reverend Caitlin Frazier

Homilist The Reverend Patricia Catalano

**Deacon** The Reverend Thom Sinclair

**Director of Music & Organist** Jeff Kempskie

**Choir** Members of the Chancel Choir;

Aaron Cates & Ross Tamacio, guest singers

Verger Josie Jordan

Acolyte Liz Layton

Readers Chris Berendes, first reading; Mary Cooper, second reading;

Becky Kaczkowski & Cecilie Jones, Prayers of the People

Altar Guild Susan Sedgewick & Gretchen Willson

Bread & Wine Josie & Bill Jordan

Flowers Penny Farley

Video Director David Deutsch

Production Assistant Charlie Rupp

#### **B. RAIFORD GAFFNEY**

Blanche Raiford Gaffney was born August 25, 1943, in Atlanta, GA to Herbert Raiford Gaffney and Anne Crider Gaffney. Her Raiford family roots go back to the Revolutionary War, and her ancestors founded Gaffney, SC. Raiford was the youngest of three girls. She was first going to be named for her grandmother, Blanche MacFarland Gaffney. But on her father's death shortly before she was born, her mother changed Raiford's name to honor her father. Her father worked in textiles in Atlanta, and her mother, trained as a secretary, was a homemaker. She went back to work and supported the family, modeling for Raiford how vital it is for women to gain an education in order to be independent and secure.

Raiford's childhood was filled with music...piano lessons at age 5, violin at age 9, and singing in choirs throughout school. Music has always been a source of joy and comfort throughout her life some of her fondest memories from childhood center on her three great aunts who took her to many cultural events. At age 12, Raiford traveled to Washington, DC and absolutely loved it. She remembered spending a day at exhibits in "The Castle Building" and thinking "the seat of government" was very special. She also recalled climbing trees and settling in the crook of the trunks to read books for hours. During her childhood years, her mother married Dave Clark who was a good stepfather.

At 16 years of age, her stepfather was offered a job in New York City, and the family moved to a small New Jersey town for her last two years of high school. She spent weekends going to plays and museum in the city. She recalled with excitement seeing the original West Side Story. She loved the school and the community, but Raiford realized that there were no Blacks or Jews in the town. This was an awakening for Raiford to the covert racism of the North. As the family prepared to move back to Atlanta, Raiford headed to college at the University of Maryland to study music education.

Raiford met her first husband, Thomas Gary, at UMD and on September 3, 1966, they were married in the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. She quit school, went to work, but soon enrolled in an introductory business course and loved it. Recognizing Raiford's ability to absorb and analyze material, two professors encouraged her to apply for a job at the Army Intelligence School in Dundalk, MD. She began as a GS 5 with a top secret clearance and moved with Tom to Olney, MD. This led to a job in management analysis with the National Security Agency during the Viet Nam years of 1970-1972. Raiford loved the work because her bosses "appreciated brains" and thus she faced less gender discrimination. She ended up working in the Director's briefing room. Although she had lots of cool experiences that she couldn't talk about, she revealed she sang the Messiah with the NSA choir and learned to like Chinese food.

She and Tom divorced amicably in 1970. During the early 70s, Raiford pursued her career at NSA, lived on the beach in San Diego, learned about SoCal water management, and completed a Masters degree from GWU. When she traveled back to DC to defend her thesis on women's status in San Diego County, she got a job with the Commodities Future Trading Commission. Her move to SW in 1974 began her fifty years in DC.

Raiford met her second husband, Sandy Newcomb, in the mid-70s when their two cats met in a shared hallway of her condo. In the late 70s, Raiford volunteered for the passage of the ERA. She moved to the IRS in 1982 and was professionally fulfilled there for many years. By 1989 she was working in the Commissioner's office and managed the Commissioner's Advisory Group. She felt a deep sense of public service.

Raiford's and Sandy's marriage was one of love and support, but eventually was overshadowed by Sandy's alcoholism. He died at 48 in 1992. Raiford moved to her darling blue house on the Hill in 1994 and retired from government service in 1998. She began attending services at St. Mark's in 1997 and jumped right into Confirmation Class, Worship Task Forces, EFM, Choir, Finance Committee and Stewardship activities. She attended Vestry meetings and was both Register and "The Vestry Mouse"...a report from a non-Vestry person. She also began the grand tradition of honoring August birthdays with a special pub lunch.

In recent years, Raiford served the larger Capitol Hill community, supporting the SE Library and AARP's tax preparation service. As noted in the Hill Rag, she was a Capitol Hill Community Builder. She was also an angel-in-human form to numerous parishioners who needed help as they aged. She called, visited, shopped, offered financial resources, and nudged others to get involved with parishioners who didn't have family to help them. Raiford chose to support our community by leaving her home to St. Mark's, which "has been the family around me that I needed." She strongly believed in leaving a legacy...both as an example and through her gift to ensure St. Mark's can be family for others.

#### H H H

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