

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

Rita Wolfinger

October 8, 1941 - July 5, 2024



**Saturday, September 14, 2024
2:30 PM**

Rector
The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

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.

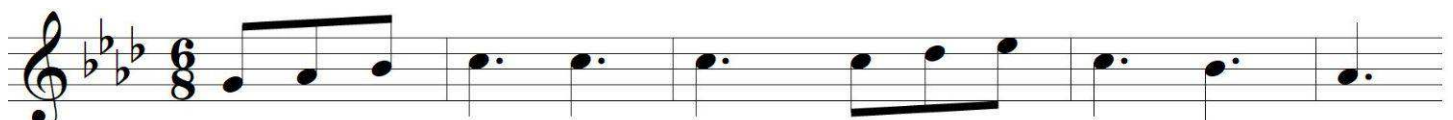
As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, my Redeemer will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold the one
who is my friend and not a stranger.

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.

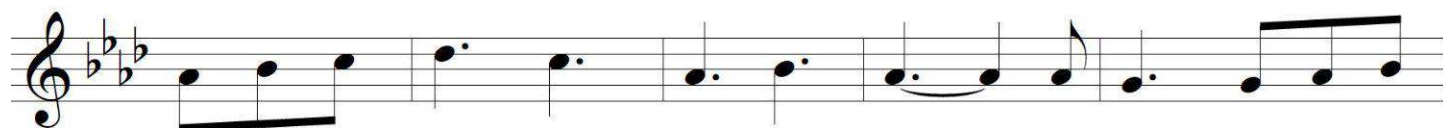
Happy from now on
are those who die in the Holy One!
So it is, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

HYMN Lift Every Voice and Sing

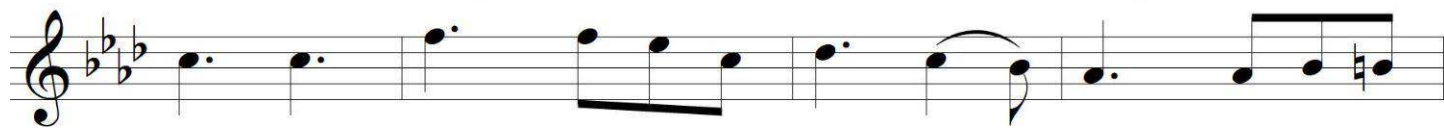
Words by James Weldon Johnson
Music by J. Rosamond Johnson



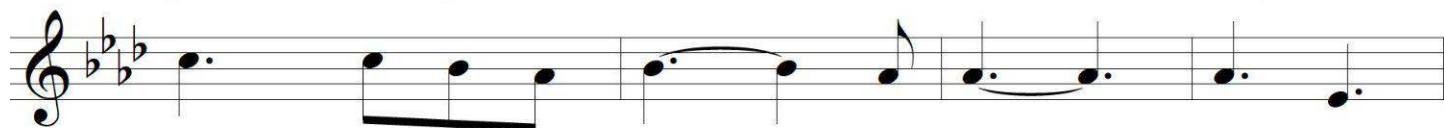
1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring,
2. Sto - ny the road we trod, bit - ter the chast - 'ning rod,
3. God of our wear - y years, God of our si - lent tears,



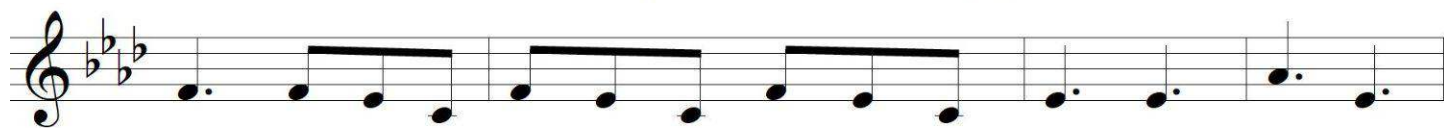
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty. Let our re -
felt in the days when hope un - born had died; yet with a
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way, thou who hast



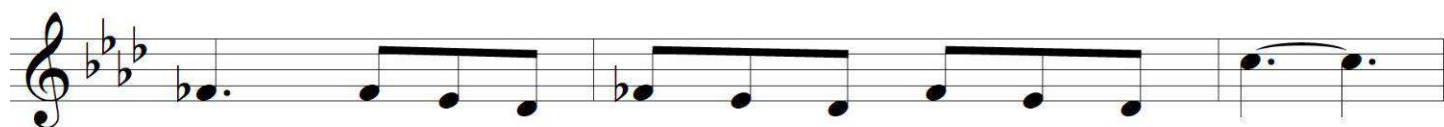
joic - ing rise high as the list - 'ning skies, let it re -
stead - y beat, have not our wear - y feet come to the
by thy migh tled us in - to the light, keep us for -



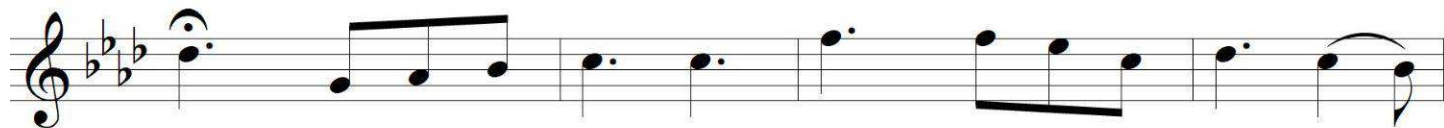
sound loud as the rol - ling sea. Sing a
place for which our fa - thers sighed? We have
ev - er in the path, we pray. Lest our



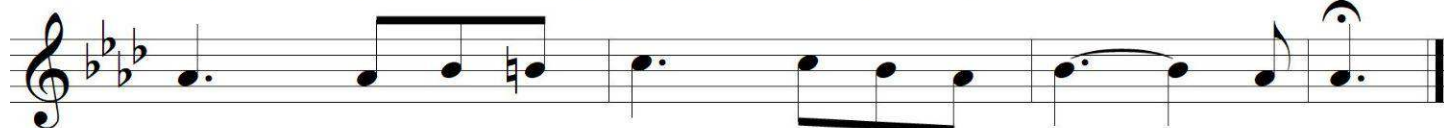
song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a
come o - ver a - way that with tears has been wa - tered; We have
feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee; lest our



song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
come, trea - ding our path through the blood of the slaugh -
hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get



us. Fac - ing the ri - ing sun of our new day be -
tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
thee; sha-dowed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er



gun, let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
last where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

THE COLLECT

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Rita. 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.

The people sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING “On Love” by Kahlil Gibran

Read by Rebecca Wolfinger

Then said Almitra, Speak to us of Love.

And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he said:

When love beckons to you, follow him,
Though his ways are hard and steep.

And when his wings enfold you yield to him,

Though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you.

And when he speaks to you believe in him,

Though his voice may shatter your dreams
as the north wind lays waste the garden.

For even as love crowns you so shall he crucify you. Even as he is for your growth so is he for your pruning.

Even as he ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver

in the sun,

So shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth.

•

Like sheaves of corn he gathers you unto himself.

He threshes you to make you naked.

He sifts you to free you from your husks.

He grinds you to whiteness.

He kneads you until you are pliant;

And then he assigns you to his sacred fire, that you may become sacred bread for God's sacred feast.

All these things shall love do unto you
that you may know the secrets of your
heart, and in that knowledge become a
fragment of Life's heart.

But if in your fear you would seek only
love's peace and love's pleasure,

Then it is better for you that you cover
your nakedness and pass out of love's
threshing-floor,

Into the seasonless world where you
shall laugh, but not all of your laughter,
and weep, but not all of your tears.

•

Love gives naught but itself and takes
naught but from itself.

Love possesses not nor would it be
possessed;

For love is sufficient unto love.

When you love you should not say,
"God is in my heart," but rather, "I am
in the heart of God."

THE SECOND READING

"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And think not you can direct the course
of love, for love, if it finds you worthy,
directs your course.

Love has no other desire but to fulfill
itself.

But if you love and must needs have
desires, let these be your desires:

To melt and be like a running brook
that sings its melody to the night.

To know the pain of too much
tenderness.

To be wounded by your own under-
standing of love;

And to bleed willingly and joyfully.

To wake at dawn with a winged heart
and give thanks for another day of loving;

To rest at the noon hour and meditate
love's ecstasy;

To return home at eventide with grati-
tude;

And then to sleep with a prayer for the
beloved in your heart and a song of praise
upon your lips.

Read by Henry Wolfinger

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

All, as able, please stand.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 5:3-10

The Gospel of Jesus, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

The Gospel of Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people sit.

REFLECTIONS

Rebecca Wolfinger
Henry Wolfinger
Kathleen Breedy

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

MUSIC Hymn Medley

Arranged by Gary Rathjen

Alisa Curlee, piano, Ellen Wolfinger Rathjen, violin

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Read by Kennedy Wolfinger-Vega

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.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends;
We remember her.

As long as we live, she too will live,
For Rita is now a part of us, as 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.

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.

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

HYMN We Shall Overcome

African American Spiritual, arr. Carl Haywood

We shall o - ver - come, _____ We shall o - ver - come, _____

We shall o - ver - come some - day; _____ Oh, _____

deep in my heart, _____ I do be - lieve, _____ (Oh)

We shall o - ver - come some - day. _____ day.

1.-4. 5.

2. We'll walk hand in hand, today.
3. God is on our side, today.

4. We are not afraid, today.
5. We shall live in peace, someday.

EUCCHARISTIC 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

**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.

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

THE FRACTION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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

HYMN Lord of all hopefulness

Slane

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

HYMN It Is Well With My Soul

Words by Horatio Spafford

Music by Philip P. Bliss



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my
2. My sin oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
3. And, Lord, hast the day when the faith — shall be



way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;
thought My sin not in part, but the whole
sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,



What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -



say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
scend, "E - ven so" it is well with my soul.



It is well — with my soul, —



— It is well, it is well with my soul.

All, as able, please stand.

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 Rita 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 Rita 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 Rita. 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 family members process to the Columbarium,
the congregation remains in place and turns towards the chapel.*

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.

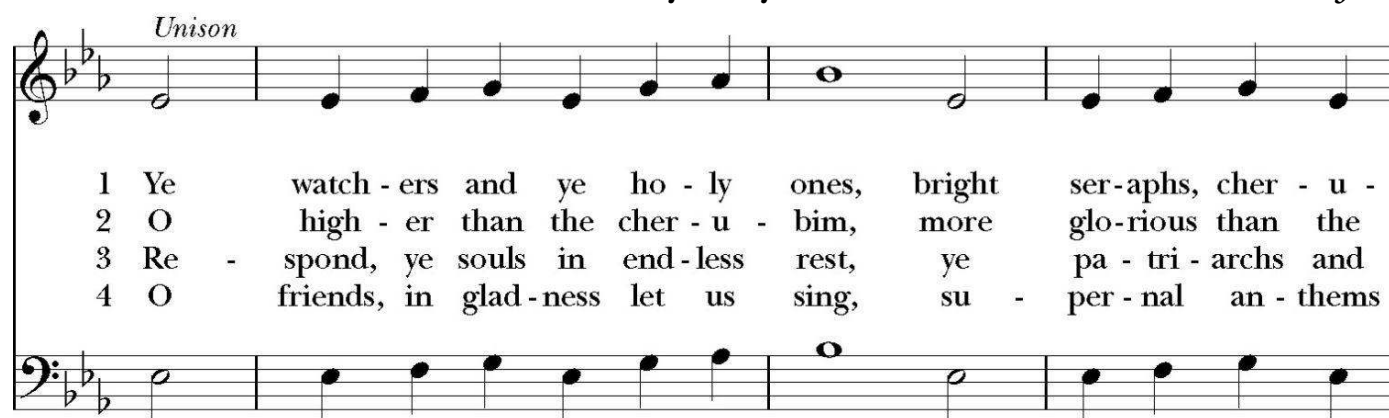
In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Rita, and we commit her body to this resting place. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. O God, bless her and keep her, make your face to shine upon her and be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

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones

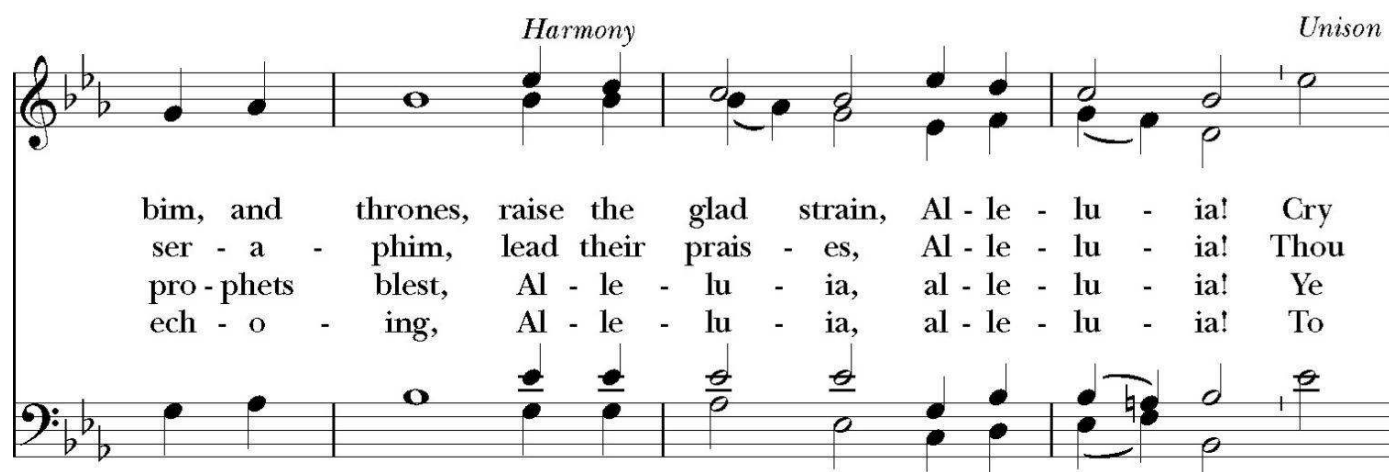
Lasst uns erfreuen

Unison

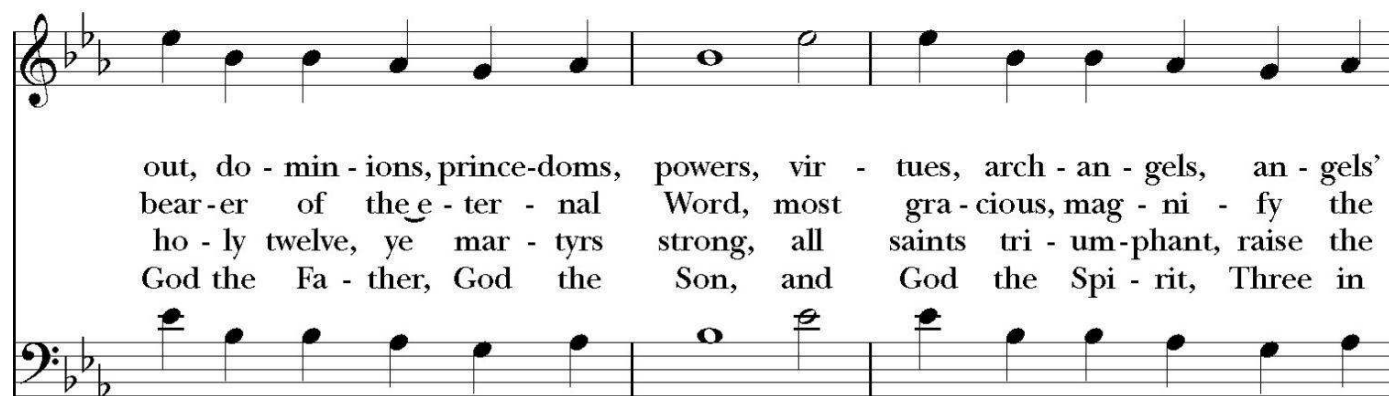


1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright ser - a - phs, cher - u -
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more glo - rious than the
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye pa - tri - archs and
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su - per - nal an - thems

Harmony *Unison*

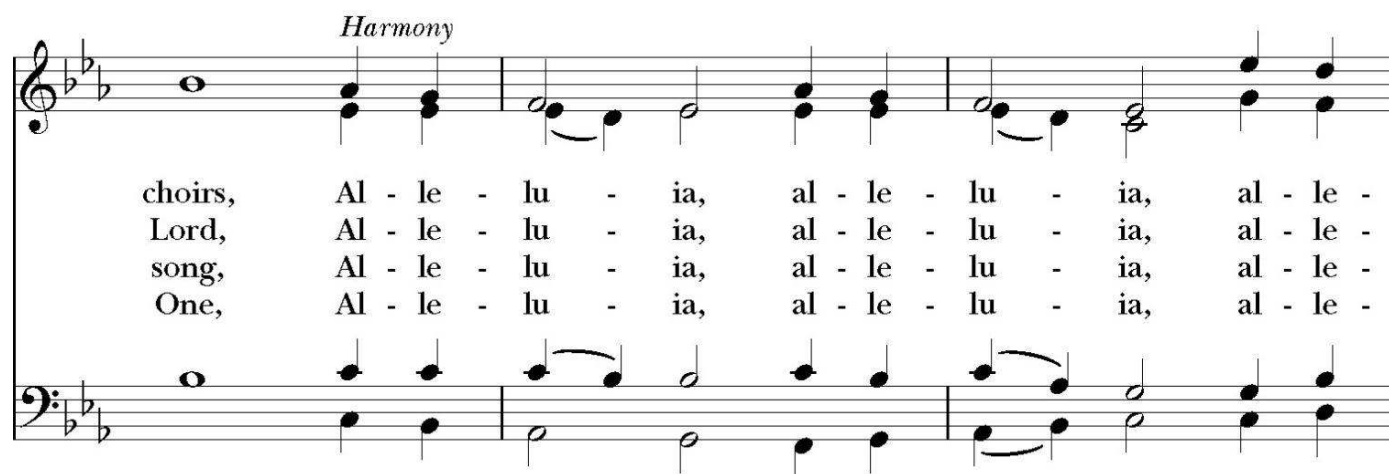


bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, Al - le - lu - ia! Cry
 ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou
 pro - phets blest, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ye
 ech - o - ing, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! To



out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, powers, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
 bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the
 ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the
 God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in

Harmony



choirs, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Lord, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 song, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 One, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Unison

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

BLESSING

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

*All are invited to join the family in Baxter Hall
 immediately following the service for a reception.*



Liturgical Leaders & Worship Participants

Presider & Preacher	The Reverend Michele H. Morgan
Director of Music	Jeff Kempskie
Soloist	Rebecca Stauber
Readers	Rebecca Wolfinger, <i>first reading</i> Henry Wolfinger, <i>second reading</i> Kennedy Wolfinger-Vega, <i>Prayers of the People</i>
Lay Servers	Bill Jordan & Dave Willson
Bread and Wine	Josie & Bill Jordan
Altar Guild	Gretchen Willson
Crucifer	Liz Layton
Verger	Josie Jordan
Reception	Karen Getman
Flowers	Penny Farley
Video Director	Matt Dodge
Technical Director	Charlie Rupp



Jarritus Boyd Wolfinger

Jarritus “Rita” Boyd Wolfinger was born in Baltimore, MD on October 8, 1941, the oldest daughter of Elijah Cunningham Boyd and Kathleen Elizabeth Lee. She grew up in Turner Station in the shadow of Bethlehem Steel, once the largest steel mill in the world. While nearby Sparrows Point was developed as a company town for white workers and their families, Black workers were excluded, and Turner Station was a vibrant African-American working-class neighborhood. During Rita’s early childhood, Bethlehem Steel made steel for the ships, tanks, and guns that helped win World War II and the infrastructure that helped the United States become an industrial powerhouse.

Rita graduated from Sollers Point High School in Dundalk, MD in 1959. She was the first person in her family to go to college and received a scholarship to Notre Dame College of Maryland. She majored in US history and developed a love of reading and learning that stayed with her throughout her life. She also developed lasting social connections, including a college roommate she would later live with after graduation. When she finished college, she went to graduate school at the University of Maryland, where she was awarded a Master of Arts degree on June 3, 1967. After spending a few years teaching junior high school in Baltimore, Rita joined the staff of the National Archives in 1971 and lived with her sister Melva in College Park.

Rita's work at the National Archives began with a training class where she met her future husband, Henry Wolfinger. The two of them and the rest of their class attended weekly lectures about the agency's history and archival processes. Rita's career at the Archives spanned three decades and included work on various forms of historical media. Her many projects included compiling records of the post-World War II International Military Tribunals for the Far East and documents related to the National Aeronautics and Space Council during its existence.

Rita had her first date with Henry Wolfinger at the Kansas City Beef House, a restaurant about a block from their workplace at the National Archives. They married in 1973 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Their first child, Rebecca, was born in 1976, followed by their son Harold in 1984. Rita remained a St. Mark's church member for the next 53 years. As a new mother, she volunteered at the church nursery and was active in the St. Mark's book group throughout her life. She and Henry also were members of the St. Mark's movie group for a number of years and made many lifelong friends there.

Rita spent decades working part-time at the National Archives and volunteering at her children's schools. She left the Archives in 2013 and enjoyed every moment of her retirement. She was an avid sports fan, particularly interested in watching tennis and the Maryland Terrapins men's and women's basketball teams. She loved plays and was a season ticket holder at Arena Stage. She enjoyed watching British period dramas and adored her grandchildren. She remained engaged with current events, celebrating the historic achievements of women and African Americans on the national stage. However, her favorite activity remained reading. She was eager to share her love of the written word with everyone around her, both in book clubs and by sending her loved ones books on every occasion she could. Her library ranged from sociological studies to African-American and women's history to romance and mystery novels. Her favorite book was Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Rita died on July 5th, 2024, two weeks after being hospitalized with Covid. She died in a sunny, spacious room in the ICU at Georgetown Hospital. The night before, she and her daughter had a sleepover and enjoyed the fireworks on the National Mall from the windows of her room. Both of her children were with her when she took her last breath.

Rita is survived by her siblings Elijah "Bootsie" Boyd, Kathleen "Debbie" Breedy, Sameerah Rasheed, and Dwayne "Chipper" Boyd, her children Rebecca Noel Wolfinger and Harold Boyd Wolfinger, and her grandchildren Kennedy Zion Wolfinger-Vega, Langston Marley Wolfinger-Vega, Sidney Johnson Wolfinger, and Zora Ellen Rita Wolfinger and her former husband Henry Wolfinger. She was preceded in death by five of her siblings: Brenda "Joyce" Pritchett, Reginald "Reggie" Boyd, John "Champ" Boyd, Isaac "Chuck" Boyd, Melva "Candy" Boyd, and her good friend Evelyn Sinclair. She was deeply beloved and will be greatly missed.

