

**The Requiem Eucharist  
in Celebration of the Life and Legacy  
of  
Liz Layton  
July 22, 1943 - December 6, 2024**



**Saturday, January 3, 2026  
2:00 PM**

**Rector**  
The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

**Interim Director of Music**  
Mike McCarthy

## 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.

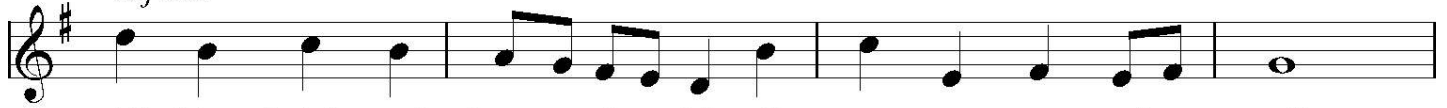
For we do not have life in ourselves,  
and we do not become our own god when we die.  
For if we have life, we are alive in God,  
and if we die, we die in God.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are God's possession.

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 405 All things bright and beautiful

Royal Oak

*Refrain*



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
- 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
- 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
- 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.  
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,  
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.  
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

**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 Liz. 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

Excerpt from *The Possessed* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

“Oh, I should dearly like to live again!” he exclaimed with an extraordinary rush of energy. “Every minute, every instant of life ought to be a blessing to man ... they ought to be, they certainly ought to be! It’s the duty of man to make it so; that’s the law of his nature, which always exists even if hidden....

“The mere fact of the ever present idea that there exists something infinitely more just and more happy than I am fills me through and through with tender ecstasy—and glorifies me—oh, whoever I may be, whatever I have done! What is far more essential for man than personal happiness is to know and to believe at every instant that there is somewhere a perfect and serene happiness for all men and for everything.... The one essential condition of human existence is that man should always be able to bow down before something infinitely great. If men are deprived of the infinitely great they will not go on living and will die of despair. The Infinite and the Eternal are as essential for man as the little planet on which he dwells. My friends, all, all: hail to the Great Idea! The Eternal, Infinite Idea! It is essential to every man, whoever he may be, to bow down before what is the Great Idea. Even the stupidest man needs something great. Petrusha ... oh, how I want to see them all again! They don’t know, they don’t know that that same Eternal, Grand Idea lies in them all!”

## THE SECOND READING Psalm 77: 11-15

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord;  
I will remember your wonders of old.  
I will meditate on all your work,  
and muse on your mighty deeds.  
Your way, O God, is holy.  
What god is so great as our God?  
You are the God who works wonders;  
you have displayed your might among the peoples.  
With your strong arm you redeemed your people,  
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

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

The Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew.

**Glory to you Lord Christ**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“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.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of Jesus.

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

*The people sit.*

**REFLECTIONS**

Margaret Crenshaw

Kathleen Frydl

**THE HOMILY**

The Reverend Michele Morgan

*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**

*Whereas this is a service for Liz, we will also take a moment to pray for Benjamin Martin,  
Liz's Husband, who predeceased her in 2018.*

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

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

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

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

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn;  
**We remember them.**

For as long as we live, they too will live,  
**Liz and Benjamin are now a part of us, as we remember them.**

When we are weary and in need of strength;  
**We remember them.**

When we are lost and sick at heart;  
**We remember them.**

When we have decisions that are difficult to make;  
**We remember them.**

When we have joy, we crave to share,  
**We remember them.**

When we have achievements that are based on theirs;  
**We remember them.**

For as long as we live, they too will live,  
**Liz and Benjamin are now a part of us, as we remember them.**

## 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

## PRESENTATION HYMN

HYMN In Christ There Is No East or West

McKee



1. In \_\_\_ Christ there is no \_\_\_ East or West, In  
2. In \_\_\_ Him shall true hearts \_\_\_ ev - ery - where Their  
3. Join \_\_\_ hands, di - sci - ples \_\_\_ of the faith, What  
4. In \_\_\_ Christ now meet both \_\_\_ East and West, In



Him no South or \_\_\_ North; But \_\_\_ one great fel - low -  
high com - mu - nion \_\_\_ find; His \_\_\_ ser - vice is the  
e'er your race \_\_\_ may \_\_\_ be! Who serves my Fa - ther  
Him meet South and \_\_\_ North; All \_\_\_ Christ - ly souls are



ship of love Through - out \_\_\_ the whole \_\_\_ wide earth.  
gold - en cord Close - bind - ing hu - man kind.  
as a son Is \_\_\_ sure - ly kin \_\_\_ to me.  
one in him Through - out \_\_\_ the whole \_\_\_ wide earth.

## 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one 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**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been 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 606 Where true charity and love dwell

*Ubi caritas*


*Antiphon*



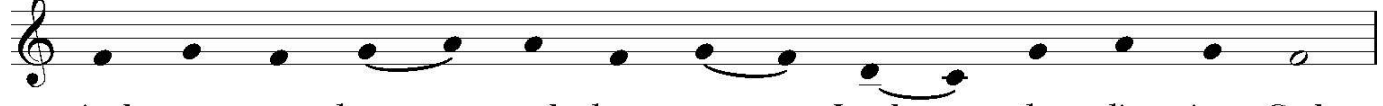
Where true char - i - ty and love dwell, God him - self is there.



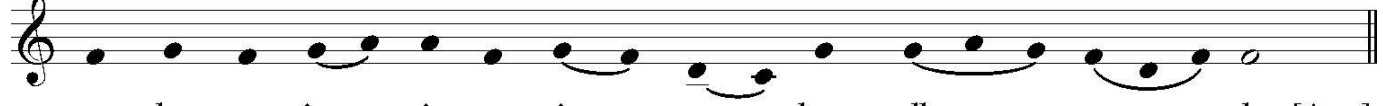
1 Since the love of Christ has joined us in one bo - dy,  
2 As we are all of one bo - dy, when we gath - er  
3 Now we pray that with the bless - ed you grant us grace



let us all re - joice and be glad now and al - ways.  
let no dis - cord or en - mi - ty break our one - ness.  
to see your ex - alt - ed glo - ry, O Christ our God,



And as we hear and love our Lord, the liv - ing God,  
May all our pet - ty jeal - ous - ies and ha - tred cease  
our bound - less source of joy and truth, of peace and love,



so let us in sin - cer - i - ty love all peo - ple. [Ant.]  
that Christ the Lord may be with us through all our days. [Ant.]  
for ev - er and for ev - er - more, world with - out end. [Ant.]

*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 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 Liz 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 Liz. 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.**

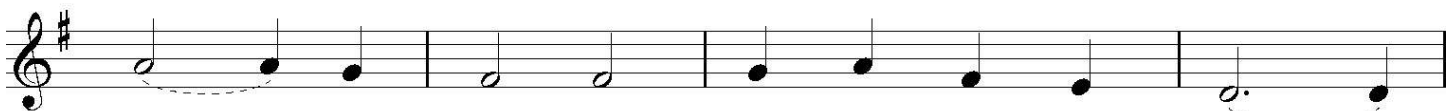
## CLOSING HYMN

287 For all the saints, who from their labors rest, vv. 1-4

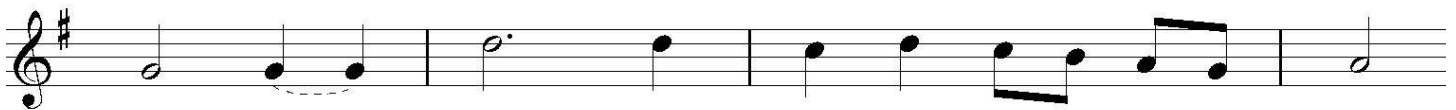
*Sine Nomine*



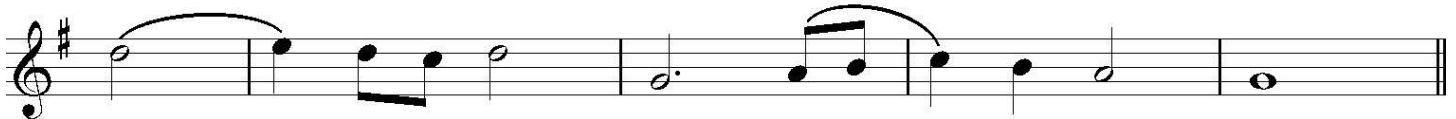
1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who  
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:—  
3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,—  
4 O blest communion, fellowship divine!—



thee— by faith before the world confessed, thy  
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;—  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old, and  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet



Name, O— Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.  
thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.  
win, with— them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.  
all are— one in thee, for all are thine.



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

## 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, 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 Baxter Hall immediately following  
The service for a reception of coffee and cookies.*

☒ ☒ ☒

*Liz Layton and Benjamin Martin will be interred in Congressional Cemetery at a later date.*

☒ ☒ ☒

## THE COMMITTAL FOR LIZ LAYTON

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 Liz, 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.**

## THE COMMITTAL FOR BENJAMIN MARTIN

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

**Have mercy upon us.**

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.  
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

## **Liturgical Leaders & Worship Participants**

<b>Presider &amp; Homilist</b>	The Reverend Michele H. Morgan
<b>Interim Director of Music</b>	Mike McCarthy
<b>Verger</b>	Josie Jordan
<b>Acolyte</b>	Doris Burton
<b>Readers</b>	Stephanie Deutsch, <i>first reading</i> ; Karen Getman, <i>second reading</i> ; Doris Burton, <i>Prayers of the People</i>
<b>Greeters</b>	Bill Jordan and Michael Knipe
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gretchen Willson
<b>Bread &amp; Wine</b>	Josie and Bill Jordan
<b>Lay servers</b>	Stephanie Deutsch and Karen Getman
<b>Reception</b>	Kenn Allen, Karen Getman & members of St. Marks

### **Honorary Pallbearers**

The Members of the Altar Guild and the Acolyte Corps

## Elizabeth Layton

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Elizabeth Layton was born July 22, 1943, in rural Kentucky. As a child, she lived on a small farm surrounded by dirt roads. Her father was a Southern Baptist preacher and a farmer. He was very conservative, and from a young age Liz chafed at the strict rules that her parents tried to impose on her. Her Aunt Jo offered a sense of relief from these difficult conservative restraints, and Liz sought refuge with her. One of Liz's earliest goals was to break free from the conservative world view of her childhood to create a life rich in ideas and rooted in freedom.

Liz attended college in Owensboro, Kentucky and majored in Russian studies. She loved college, in large part because she adored reading and learning. She was rarely without a book in her hand and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She found life-long friends who were intellectually curious and held values akin to hers. Liz kept in touch with these friends and many became beloved traveling companions. One August during her college years, she jumped in the back of a pickup truck and traveled to Washington DC to hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. She was one of thousands of young people to hear King's iconic "I Have A Dream" speech in 1963. She had found a place to pursue a richer and freer life.

After college and some graduated classes in Russian and Czech language, she made her way back to DC, staying with friends until she found her first job in a gift shop of one of the Smithsonian museums. In 1972, Liz applied for a job at the Library of Congress and was hired in the Exchange and Gifts Division. The Division was responsible for obtaining vast amounts of material, exchanging them with other institutions worldwide, and making the material available to the library patrons. Liz became one of their Russia experts and worked there for 33 years until retirement in 2005. She was known by colleagues to explore the stacks and read all kinds of material on her lunch break.

Liz met her future husband Benjamin Martin, a State Department employee, through an ISO advertisement in the mid-70s. He and Liz married on April 17, 1978 and were married for nearly 50 years. Within two years, their son Eric was born. Over the years, the family had a menagerie of beloved animals including dogs (Bud, Alfie, PG - Pretty Girl), several cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, butterflies, and fish! Liz, Benjamin, and Eric lived on Capitol Hill in several different houses over 4 decades. Benjamin had been married previously and is the father of Serge, David, and Aissa. Benjamin died on February 15, 2018, at the age of 100.

As a mom, Liz wanted to avoid the pitfalls of her constrained childhood. She wanted Eric to feel comfortable and protected, yet have access to wide experiences. Despite her negative religious experiences in Kentucky as a child, she hoped to find a spiritual community that would provide a place to set down roots in DC. Colleagues at the Library of Congress recommended that Liz check out St. Mark's Church on Capitol Hill. Liz did and she stayed for nearly 50 years.

During her five decades as a member, Liz was very active in the life and ministries of St. Mark's. Her contributions of time and energy touched many aspects of our community life. In the area of Worship, she was an acolyte and member of the Altar Guild for decades. In the area of Social Justice, she participated in numerous efforts, most notably with the Shelter Project for eight years and with Samaritan Ministries, helping low income clients write their resumes. In the area of hard work, she was a regular church gardener and could be found weeding and pruning in St. Mark's courtyard and Third Street gardens. She was one of the earliest members of the St. Mark's Book Club, currently in its 49th year. Her group mates say, "And she actually read the books!" Beginning in 2020, she was a regular and beloved member of Morning Prayer until her death.

Liz was also a big supporter of the Folger Theater. She was both a docent and a regular attendee. This nourished her intellectual curiosity, avid reading habit, and was a special shared activity with Benjamin. One of her favorite activities was to dress up in Elizabethan garb on Shakespeare's birthday. She and the student visitors loved it!

Both the National Arboretum and the AARP benefited from Liz's volunteer work. She brought Alfie and PG with her to the arboretum to weed the beds and care for the plants. When no one was looking, she would let the dogs run free. If admonished, she would put them on the leash and wait until the authorities were gone to give them freedom again. During many springs, she was a greeter for the AARP Foundation Tax Aid Program in southeast DC, a program helping people get access to good tax services for free. It was very important to Liz that DC residents, who didn't have money to seek tax advice, be able to take advantage of the government subsidies designed for them.

In all that she did, Liz was spirited, witty, opinionated, and guided by values of equity and compassion. She had a huge heart coupled with a great intellect. Sprinkled over these significant qualities was a dose of mischievousness; Liz was a bit of a rule breaker, especially if it helped someone (or animal) in need. A friend who knew her for nearly 50 years reflected that Liz never let a friend go; relationships and community were paramount for her.

Liz died suddenly on the afternoon of December 6, 2024, at home at the age of 81. It was a shock to her family and friends, yet we know she would not have wanted to endure a slow decline. Liz succeeded in finding the intellectually stimulating world that she yearned for as a child and created a home with Benjamin, Eric, her beloved animals and the St. Mark's community. She accomplished what she set out to do when she left the farm.