

**A Memorial Service in  
Commemoration of the Life and Labor  
of  
Alison Rossen Feighan**

**November 15, 1961 - March 27, 2026**



**April 18, 2026**

**12:00 PM**

**Presider**

**The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy**

**Director of Music**

**Jeff Kempskie**



## PRELUDE MUSIC

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

## BURIAL RITE

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though she 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 none of us has life in herself,  
and none become our own god when she dies.  
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's possession.

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

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

*All are invited to read the bold text aloud.*

## THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember this day our sister Alison. 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.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Alison's family, especially her husband Stephen, son Lincoln, daughter Rose, her mother Lynne, brother John and their family, and friends in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ Our Lord, **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST READING "To Be of Use" by Marge Piercy

The people I love the best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
They seem to become natives of that element,  
the black sleek heads of seals  
bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,  
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,  
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,  
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge  
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest  
and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
but move in a common rhythm  
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
But the thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.  
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,  
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums  
but you know they were made to be used.  
The pitcher cries for water to carry  
and a person for work that is real.

**THE SECOND READING** Matthew 25:31, 34-40 (abridged)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory, saying to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

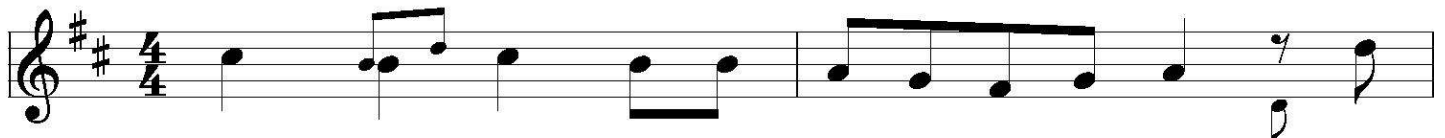
Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able.*

HYMN You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

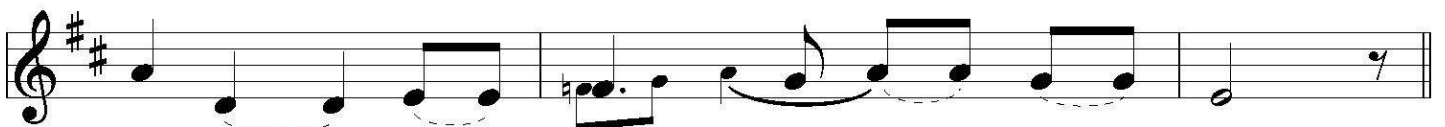
Michael Joncas



1. You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -  
 2. Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and  
 3. For to the an - gels God's giv - en a com - mand to



bide in his sha - dow for life, say to the Lord: "My  
 fam - ine will bring you no fear; un - der God's wings your  
 guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"  
 ref - uge with faith - ful - ness your shield.  
 bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

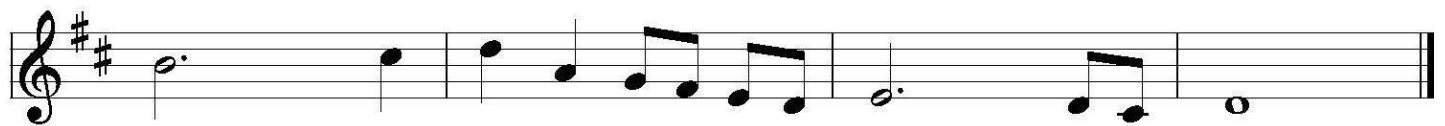
*Refrain*



"And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,



bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the



sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

*The people are seated.*

## REFLECTIONS

Heather Ayares, *friend*

John E. Feighan, MD, *brother*

Cleofas Rodríguez, *colleague and friend*

## THE HOMILY

The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy

*The people, as able, stand.*

## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let St. Mark's and all communities of faith be tangible manifestations of God's compassion, charity, and hope. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for the blessings of families: Alison's love for family was boundless. The family that sends her to her rest today loved her deeply in return. May we strive always to deepen our devotion to our family members. Lord, heal families that are divided and watch over your children who lack the embrace of family. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for the gift of friendship: Lifelong friends of Alison here today or far away represent a larger multigenerational community that will live on. Let us give thanks for the love and generosity of so many friends and neighbors who have cared for Alison's family. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God." In a world in which conflict and hatred separate us from God's love, let us strive to be peacemakers through our words and deeds. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us hold up in prayer those who suffer from illness, sorrow, poverty, or injustice: In this Easter season and throughout the year, let us emulate Alison and all of those who ease the pain of others. We pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

As long as we live, she too will live.

**For Alison is now a part of us, and we remember her.**

At the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring:

**We remember her.**

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

**We remember her.**

When we are weary and in need of strength;

**We remember her.**

When we have decisions that are difficult to make;

**We remember her.**

When we have joy to crave to share.

**We remember her.**

When we have achievements that are based on her;

**We remember her.**

As long as we live, she too will live.

**For Alison is now a part of us, and we remember her.**

*Presider:*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our prayers for our sister Alison and for all of our concerns. Through our offerings and by your Spirit, renew our trust in God's Love, granting us the faith to follow, in love and justice, where you have led the way. **Amen.**

**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**

Lou Bayard, soloist

*Oh, Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling,  
 From glen to glen, and down the mountain side.  
 The summer's gone, and all the roses falling,  
 It's you, it's you must go and I must bide.  
 But come ye back when summer's in the meadow,  
 Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow,  
 It's I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow,  
 Oh, Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so!*

*But when ye come, and all the flowers are dying,  
 If I am dead, as dead I well may be,  
 You'll come and find the place where I am lying,  
 And kneel and say an Ave there for me.  
 And I shall hear, though soft you tread above me,  
 And all my grave will warmer, sweeter be,  
 For you will bend and tell me that you love me,  
 And I shall sleep in peace until you come to me!*

*The people, as able, stand.*

## 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 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 Alison. 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.**

CLOSING HYMN Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

*Hymn to Joy*

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

## THE BLESSING

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.**

## THE DISMISSAL

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

**POSTLUDE** Excerpt from Fantasia in G Major, BWV 572 “Piece d’orgue” J. S. Bach

*All are invited to join the family at Eastern Market’s North Hall following the service for a reception and opportunity to share remembrances.*

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### Liturgical Leaders & Worship Participants

<b>Presider</b>	The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy
<b>Organist</b>	Jeff Kempskie
<b>Soloist</b>	Lou Bayard
<b>Verger</b>	Josie Jordan
<b>Acolyte</b>	Stephanie Deutsch
<b>Greeters</b>	Maureen Shea & Kenn Allen
<b>Readers</b>	Hannah Toriz Perez, Shelley Smith
<b>Video Director</b>	David Deutsch
<b>Technical Director</b>	Chris Berendes

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## Alison Rossen Feighan

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As a young person, Alison Rossen Feighan adopted the maxim that life is not a dress rehearsal. Until the moment of her death from cancer at age 64 on March 27, 2026, she lived accordingly.

For over 40 years, Alison devoted herself to economic justice and empowerment. Through the Feighan Team, the firm she founded and led for over ten years, she became a trusted advisor to national nonprofits, community lenders, coalitions, and advocacy networks working to strengthen families, small businesses, and local economies.

She was a visionary architect in establishing and institutionalizing the presence of the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association and spearheaded efforts to strengthen and modernize the program for generations to come. She played a transformative role in helping entrepreneurs and low-income communities access capital through her work with Community Development Financial Institutions, the Community Reinvestment Fund, USA, Mission Lenders Working Group, the Responsible Business Lending Coalition, the New Markets Venture Capital Fund, and other initiatives. She mentored countless young men and women and delighted friends and family with her inimitable sense of fashion, talent as an artist, and sharp sense of humor.

Alison was born on November 15, 1961, in Cleveland, OH, the daughter of John T. Feighan, IV, and Lynne Rossen Feighan. She earned an MA in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts University and a BA from the University of Michigan. She was predeceased by her father. She is survived by her devoted and loving husband of 29 years, Stephen J. Norton, and their two children, Lincoln and Rose, of Washington, DC, and the family schnoodle, Rigby, who has licked away many tears. She instilled in her children a work ethic, moral compass, and empathy for others, and her pride and joy in them was limitless. She is also survived by her mother, her brother, John E. Feighan, M.D., both of Cleveland, her four sisters-in-law, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

## **An Irish Blessing**

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.