

**Celebration of the Life and Legacy
of
Margaret Roth Brown**
September 21, 1938 - April 30, 2026



**Saturday, September 26, 2026
1:00 PM**

Rector
The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

Guest Organist
David Lang

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.

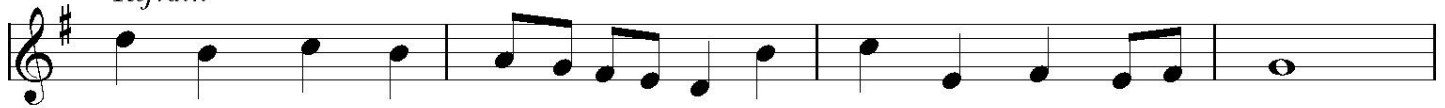
For we do not have life in ourselves,
and we do not become our own god when we die.
For if we have life, we are alive in God,
and if we die, we die in God.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are God's possession.

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.

Repeat Refrain

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 Margaret. 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 **There is no Frigate like a Book** Emily Dickinson

There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry -
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll -
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human Soul -

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.

THE GOSPEL **John 14:1-6**

The Gospel of Jesus according to John

Glory to you Lord Christ

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of Jesus.
Praise to you Lord Christ.

The people sit.

REFLECTIONS

The Reverend Michele Morgan
Sue Mason
Andrew Robb
George Brown

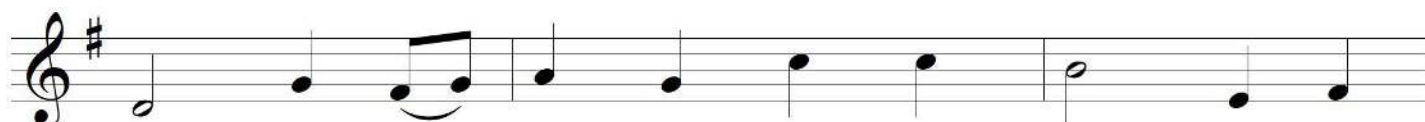
All, as able, please stand.

HYMN For the beauty of the earth

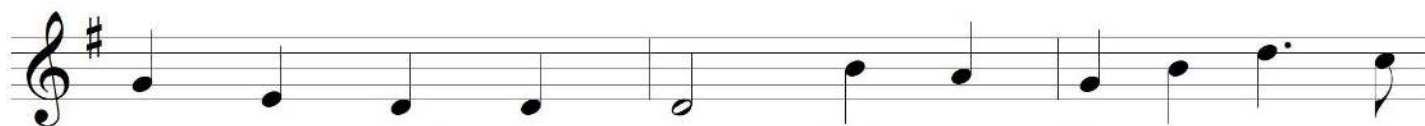
Dix



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the
2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de -
4. For the joy of hu - man love, bro - ther, sis - ter, pa - rent,
5. For each per - fect gift of thine to the world so free - ly



skies, for the love which from our birth o - ver
night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and
light, for the my - stic har - mo - ny link - ing
child, friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all
given, faith and hope and love di - vine, peace on



and a - round us lies. Christ, our God, to thee we
moon and stars of light,
sense to sound and sight,
gen - tle thoughts and mild,
earth and joy in heaven.



raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

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.

For as long as we live, she too will live,
Margaret 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,
Margaret is now a part of us, as we remember her.

WELCOME

THE COMMENDATION

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Margaret 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 Margaret 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 Margaret. 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 the procession moves to the chapel, the congregation remains in place.

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 Margaret 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

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

Sine Nomine



1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:____
3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,____
4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!____



thee____ by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;____
fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet



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.*

As many of you know, Margaret's drawings of animals at the National Zoo were sold as postcards through Friends of the National Zoo and the Smithsonian, as well as other shops around the country. Margaret spent hours at the zoo getting to know the animals so that their personalities would show through in her sketches. Margaret enjoyed giving the cards to family and friends. During the reception following the service in Baxter Hall, we hope you will take one or two of the packets of cards and enjoy them as much as Margaret did creating them.



Liturgical Leaders & Worship Participants

Presider & Homilist	The Reverend Michele H. Morgan
Guest Organist	David Lang
Verger	Josie Jordan
Acolyte	Josie Jordan
Readers	Diane Pirkey, <i>first reading</i> ; Catherine Roth, <i>second reading</i> ; Margaret Crenshaw, <i>Prayers of the People</i> .
Altar Guild	Elizabeth Arthur
Flowers	Diane Pirkey
Video Director	Rosemary Harold
Tech Director	Carter Ferguson

Margaret Roth Brown September 21, 1938 - April 30, 2026

Margaret was born in Philadelphia in 1938, the youngest of three children. Her father, Clyde, was a civil engineer whose work took the family to Philadelphia, Rhode Island, upstate New York, Atlanta, and the Pittsburgh area, while her mother, Gertrude, devoted herself to raising Margaret and her two older brothers, Robert and Henry. Margaret attended Sewickley Academy and Abbott Academy before studying art at Connecticut College for Women, graduating in 1960.

After college, Margaret made her way to Washington, D.C., where she worked at the National Gallery of Art and with a paintings conservator in Georgetown. Her artistic interests also led to a small postcard business in which she created pen-and-ink drawings of animals, particularly those at the National Zoo. She sold the postcards at the Smithsonian and elsewhere, and also produced illustrations for Smithsonian publications. It was an early expression of two interests that would stay with her throughout her life: art and the natural world.

In 1967, Margaret married Jim Brown. Their marriage was tragically short; Jim died in a tennis accident only four months later. Margaret returned to Washington and began what became a 35-year career with the Library of Congress.

Margaret took enormous pride in being a federal employee. She believed that government, at its best, was a vessel for doing things for the good of all people—particularly things that were important but would never be profitable. The preservation of books and other irreplaceable materials was, to her, a perfect example. During her years in the Library's Conservation Office, she helped care for some of the nation's most important historical treasures. She remembered with particular awe handling George Washington's letters and escorting Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address when it was loaned to Gettysburg. Later, she became a registrar in the Exhibits Office, helping museums and institutions around the world borrow materials from the Library's collections. She loved both the work and the opportunity to share the Library's extraordinary holdings with others.

Washington became Margaret's permanent home even before she bought her Capitol Hill house in 1971, where she lived for nearly 55 years. Many of the friendships she had made in Georgetown followed her to Capitol Hill, and her neighborhood, St. Mark's, and the Library became the center of a close community of friends. She was active in the St. Mark's book club and volunteered in the library at Capitol Hill Day School when George was a student there. She liked to say that she had the best commute in Washington, a whole three block walk!

In 1983, Margaret's life changed again with the birth of her son, George. He became the great focus of her life. She devoted herself to giving him opportunities to learn, explore, and compete, driving all over the Mid-Atlantic for his soccer and hockey games and supporting him through school and beyond. She took enormous pride in the person he became and in his accomplishments.

Margaret also had a deep curiosity about the world. After retiring from the Library, she returned to art, taking pastel classes and exploring a medium that was new to her. Her interest in the natural world led her to learn about the important role bats play in ecosystems, eventually inspiring a trip to Madagascar. There she spent two weeks on a bat-focused tour, while also seeing lemurs in the wild and in captivity. She later created a series of pastel drawings of lemurs and had them made into postcards—bringing her artistic and naturalist interests full circle, back to the postcard business she had started decades earlier.

Margaret was also remarkably generous in the things she cared about. She was frugal when spending money on herself, but she gave generously to causes and organizations she believed were making the world better. She believed strongly in the value of institutions that served the public, and she tried to support those values in her own life as well.

Above all, Margaret valued people. She maintained friendships spanning decades and different chapters of her life, and she built a home on Capitol Hill where those relationships could flourish. She was curious, independent, artistic, devoted, and quietly determined. She found meaning in preserving the past, sharing what she loved with others, exploring the natural world, and, most of all, being George's mother. Later, she welcomed Becki into the family and was delighted at becoming a grandmother to Oliver and Victoria.

Margaret lived nearly 88 years, much of it in the same house, the same neighborhood, and the same city she had come to call home. But her interests and curiosity carried her far beyond Capitol Hill—from the collections of the Library of Congress to the animals of the National Zoo and the lemurs of Madagascar. She leaves behind a life shaped by service, creativity, friendship, generosity, and love.



Margaret High School Photo



Margaret with her grandchild Victoria