



Burial and Holy Eucharist Rite II
Service of Thanksgiving for



Marie A. Henderson-Williams
July 24, 1945 – November 1, 2024

Saturday, November 23rd, 2024 at 10:00am

Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Krasinski, Priest-in-Residence,
Rev. Paul J. Kane, Officiants
Mr. Michael Harris - Organist
Mrs. Jennifer Muñoz - Soloist

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The Obituary

Marie Henderson-Williams, beloved wife, mother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of laughter, love, and memories that will be cherished forever. Born on July 24, 1945, in Kingston, Jamaica, she was the second of nine children to her mother, Christine Francis. Her mother, her brothers Steve and Ernest Francis, and her sisters Flo Williams and Vivene Francis-Northover preceded her in death.

Marie migrated to the United States in the early 1970s and initially worked in New York's hospitality industry. Her career took a remarkable turn when she secured her dream job with American Express, first in New York and later transferring to the company's Florida branch in Plantation. She proudly served in many departments and finally in the Subpoena department, and her role afforded her the exciting opportunity to travel to India, where she trained employees.

An avid traveler, Marie shared an annual tradition with her sister, Pamela, exploring Europe and visiting the storybook towns they'd read about. Her passion for exploration and love for culture left her with memories of vibrant journeys.

Marie was also a devoted member of St. James in-the-Hills Church, actively serving in the Altar Guild Ministry for many years. Her faith and dedication touched many lives.

Her honesty, infectious laughter, and humor were unforgettable. Known for her straightforward nature, she often said, "If you don't want the truth, don't ask me." She was a talented cook, a skill she mastered as the second of nine children. Though her love for cooking faded in later years, her zest for life never did. She enjoyed English mysteries, comedies, and cooking shows and loved to dance, especially to Soca music.

Marie leaves behind her loving and devoted husband, James Williams; her cherished son, Ricardo Francis; her siblings, Pamela (Bertram) Johnson, Hugh Francis, Yvonne (Rodney) Paicely, and Claudette (Michael) Crowder-Fowler; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends who will forever remember her warmth and grace.

We'd like to offer a humble thanks to all her friends and family who came to gather to celebrate a life well-lived and honor her memory.

May she rest in eternal peace.



"For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

Psalm 48:14

All stand.

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself 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, he will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he 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.

Opening Hymn - *Alleluia, Alleluia, The Strife is O'er*

Hymnal # 208 (verses 1, 2, 4, 5)

The Collect

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Priest: Let us pray.

Silence is kept,

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant Marie, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Marie's loved ones 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.*

All sit.

The Ministry of the Word

The First Lesson:

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

Latoya Tarifeno

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster
and their going from us to be their destruction,
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his

Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; *

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of

mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit*

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Epistle:

1 John 3:1–12

Janet Sanford

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All Stand.

Gradual Hymn: *Be Still & Know*

Choir

The Gospel: John 6:37-40

Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Krasinski

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Words from the Family

Pamela Johnson

The Homily

The Rev. Paul J. Kane

The Apostles' Creed

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say together,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

The Prayers

For our sister Marie, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection, and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Marie and dry the tears of those who weep.

People: Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence is kept.

The Priest concludes with the following prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Marie who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her death may recall to us your victory over death and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Peace

Hymn: *Commune with Me*

Choir

Holy Communion

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 124

**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 Father: 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 Father 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: 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.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Priest: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Post Communion Prayer

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.*

Recessional Hymn - *Amazing Grace*

Hymnal #671



***Please note that the inurnment
will take place in the Memorial Garden.***

The Committal

The following anthem is chanted into the garden:

**Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.**

**He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new
life to our mortal bodies through his 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.**

Then, while earth is cast upon the urn, the Priest says these words:

Priest: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Marie, and we commit her body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her and give her peace. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us 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.
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.**

*Priest: Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord;
People: And let light perpetual shine upon her.*

May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



A message from Lynn Bliss

St. James' sanctuary always got a cleaning before EASTER.

This was a ministry and a duty of the Altar Guild. Marie, Veronica and I were the only volunteers. We agreed to meet on a Saturday to do this work. I arrived at the front door of the church at 10:00 a.m., as agreed, weighed down with cleaning supplies. By 11:00 o'clock, I was tired and weary from my cleaning, and extremely disappointed that they had not turned up. So, I packed up and took off back home!

The following day - Sunday - all three of us were at church. I then discovered that they had entered the church through the back door, gathered the silver, and spent hours in the kitchen polishing all our lovely items. When they were done, they left through the back door. They never knew that I was there working, and I never knew that they were there. A comedy of errors! I explained, and they explained, but when I asked about coming next week to finish the job, they firmly responded "that train has left the station." I had never heard that phrase before, but it so perfectly communicates a feeling of exasperated finality" that I have since used it myself a few times over the years.

Marie had a great sense of style, which apparently runs in the family. She always looked "just right" for whatever the occasion - never once overdone, but always with a quiet flair!

Marie was a very private person. For years, I had only known her as Marie Henderson. So, Bill and I were caught off guard when coming to church a little late, one Sunday there was Marie, sitting in her pew with a gentleman beside her! She was always seated alone. We immediately went up to them to introduce ourselves and welcome the "guest." Imagine our surprise to learn that he was her son!!

Marie was the one who took charge of arranging Saint Anne's Guild baskets, which we sold to fund the projects which the Guild supported. We always ended up with an attractive product because of Marie's commitment to beauty and quality.

Those baskets helped Saint Anne's Guild purchase the white chairs for Feaster Hall. Whenever you are in the hall, remember that Marie was instrumental in providing a necessary, practical and long-lasting gift to the church she faithfully attended for so many years.

As a former Altar Guild Directress, who worked with Marie for many years, I remember her commitment to the Altar Guild and her faithful service over the many years that she served. May her soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon her.

"We will remember."

Lynn Bliss
Former Altar Guild Directress
Saint James-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church
November 18, 2024