

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

A parish in the Diocese of Pennsylvania

June 1, 2024 11:00 am



A Celebration of the Life

of

William Gerald "Jerry" Jackson

August 14, 1952 - December 22, 2023

Those who are able may stand.

The Celebrant begins

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.

The Celebrant then says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 Jerry, 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.**

Please remain standing for singing of the hymns, which are found in the Blue Hymnal.

Opening Hymn 8 Morning has broken

Bunessan

Congregation may be seated.

First Reading

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

A Reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

Deus noster refugium

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *
what awesome things he has done on earth

10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.

11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; *

I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”

12 The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

A Reading from the Revelation to John.

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for singing of the hymn, found in the Blue Hymnal.

Gradual Hymn 593 Lord, make us servants of your peace

St. Francis

Please remain standing.

The Gospel

John 6:37-40

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the people, "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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Remembering Jerry

Homily

The Reverend Lucy Ann Dure

All stand.

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

Celebrant and People

**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 brother Jerry, 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 Jerry, 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.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

Silence may be kept.

Father of all, we pray to you for Jerry and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to him eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The people may be seated.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharist Prayer B

The people stand.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and People

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.

The people kneel or stand.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the

everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

People and Celebrant

**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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

Communion Motet Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S. Bach

Communion Hymn 335 I am the bread of life *Bread of Life*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 ministers take their places at the urn.

The Commendation

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.

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,

People **Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

The Celebrant says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Jerry. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Priest Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

People **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

The Priest then says the following

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

The Priest blesses the people.

The Priest dismisses the people with these words

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Closing Hymn 671 Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound

New Britain

The Congregation may join the procession out of the church to the reception in the Parish Hall.

*The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection.
Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.*

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that those we love have entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

St. Mary's Church Parish Staff

The Reverend Lucy Ann Dure, *Interim Rector* (lucyann@stmaryswayne.org)

Dr. Gordon Turk, *Organist & Choirmaster* (gturkpipes@aol.com)

Nicole Marie, *MFA Parish Administrator* (nicole@stmaryswayne.org)

Toshi and Masako Makihara, *Property Caretakers*

William Gerald “Jerry” Jackson, a beacon of resilience and love, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on December 22, 2023 in Los Angeles, CA at the age of 71. Born August 14, 1952 in Jacksonville, FL, Jerry’s early life was marked by hardship, spending much time in children’s homes and the foster care system. Despite this challenging upbringing, Jerry possessed an unwavering spirit, a thirst for knowledge, a love of music, and devotion to those he loved.

Jerry graduated from Sebring High School in Sebring, FL. He went on to attend South Florida Junior College and University of South Florida in Tampa, FL, graduating with a degree in finance and accounting. Jerry took great pride in being a first-generation college student, defying the expectations of those who initially dismissed his educational pursuits. He started working as a bond underwriter for Fireman’s Fund, but quickly realized the business world was not for him. Knowing that he enjoyed working with his hands (ie, building model ships and doing macrame) and wanting to be of help to others through work in the health field, Jerry went back to the University of South Florida and obtained a bachelor’s degree in biology. He then attended Dental School at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL, graduating 2nd in his class.

While at the University of South Florida, Jerry met the love of his life Dianne Kikta, whom he married in 1976. They moved to Philadelphia in 1983, and in 1984 settled in their forever home in Strafford, PA with their then 5-month-old daughter, Kate Jackson. Their son, Curtis Jackson, was born in 1987, completing the family. Jerry was a hard worker, holding down part-time jobs in high school and working full-time while in college. Jerry started and grew his dental practice in Devon, PA, where he was viewed as a caring and gentle dentist by his patients. Jerry retired from dentistry in 2015.

Despite a rigorous and demanding career, Jerry remained first and foremost devoted to his family. Whether it was the carpool pick-up line, sports events, or piano lessons, Jerry was a present and engaged dad who made Kate and Curt feel like the luckiest kids in the world. He was a true life partner to Dianne - taking on the ups and downs of life together. Jerry loved living and working in Philadelphia’s “Main Line” suburb as well as learning about its rich history; he proudly presented daughter Kate as a debutante at the 2002 Philadelphia Charity Ball. Jerry’s passion for music started at a young age. He learned to play the violin in junior high school and joined the school orchestra. In high school, he took up the tuba and string bass, proudly a member of the Sebring High School marching band and orchestra, and elected as Band Captain his senior year. As an adult, he cherished his season tickets to the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In his retirement, Jerry enjoyed lunching with friends, reading history books, listening to classical music, and spending quality time with grandpups Dexter and JB. Jerry maintained a love for the Devon Horse Show, attending annually with family.

Jerry found great pleasure in helping others, often doing so anonymously. He was passionate about assisting individuals, especially those who had experienced misfortune, achieve an education and excel in life. He was always willing to lend an ear to those who needed to talk, and sought to learn new information or viewpoints from his patients and others he encountered in life. He loved to entertain and bring cheer to anyone he met. His ability and enjoyment of spinning lengthy detailed stories was only topped by his tenacious sense of humor. He never took life too seriously, with a wry remark or dad joke for any occasion.

Jerry was predeceased by his father, Clarence “Jiggs” Jackson, brother Orville Raeford “Bucky” Jackson, sister Patricia Hoch, and father-in-law Stephen E. Kikta, Sr. Jerry is survived by his devoted wife, Dianne Kikta, and his loving children: Kate Jackson and husband Daniel Sislo, and Curtis Jackson and husband Drew Nixon. He also leaves behind siblings Owen Jackson and Janice Villarrubia, and mother-in-law Hilda Kikta, as well as numerous brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and countless friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Foster Love at <https://www.fosterlove.com> or World Central Kitchen <https://wck.org>.