

The Celebration of the Life of Donald Parsons

April 17, 2021

Opening Anthem

All are invited to stand as you are able.

Celebrant: 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 Welcome

We have come here today to remember before God our brother Donald, to give thanks for his life; to commend him to God; and to comfort one another in our grief.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence may be kept.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Donald. We thank you for giving him to us, his 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.***

Please be seated for the Readings.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

Read by Debbie

Reader: A Reading from the book of Wisdom:

¹But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

²In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,

and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
³ and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

⁴ For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

⁵ Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great
good, because God tested them and found them worthy
of himself;

⁹ 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.

Psalm 139:1-11

Read in unison.

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,”

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Read by Brenda

Reader: A reading from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians:

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Remembrance

Ms. Makayla Parsons

The Gospel

John 14:1-6

Read by the Rev. Holly Hoffmann

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

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

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

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

The Rev. Holly Hoffmann

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.*

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: For our brother Donald, 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 Donald, 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 brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

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

The Commendation

The Celebrant take her place at the body.

The Celebrant says the anthems, and the People respond.

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 all;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth,
and to earth shall we return.

For so you ordained when you created us, 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, facing the body, says

Celebrant: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Donald. 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.**

The Priest blesses the people:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Celebrant

The Rev. Holly Hoffmann, Priest-in-Charge

Church of Our Father, Hulls Cove, Maine

St. Saviour's Episcopal Church, Bar Harbor, Maine

St. Andrew's and St. John's, Southwest Harbor, Maine

<http://www.mdi-episcopal.org/> <https://www.youtube.com/c/MDIEPISCOPAL>