



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

MARIANNA “MUFFIN” MEAD O’BRIEN
MARCH 28, 1930 – JANUARY 9, 2021

Saturday, May 21, 2022

2 PM

Trinity Church
in the City of Boston
206 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116
617-536-0944 + trinitychurchboston.org



ENTRANCE RITE

Prelude Music

‘Sinfonia to Cantata No. 156, Arioso (“I Stand at the Threshold”)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

‘Largo from *Xerxes*’
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

‘Jesu, joy of man’s desiring’ *sung by the Trinity Choir*
Bach

Anthems

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.

Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister
Marianna. 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.

About the Liturgy

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 one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

Hymn 657 'Love divine, all loves excelling'

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - lect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

WORD OF GOD

Remembrance Elsie O'Brien Aubrey

Psalm 121 *Sung by the choir*

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Reading Louise Walker O'Brien

From Frederick Buechner's "Whistling in the Dark"

Remembrance Elsie Walker

Hymn 482 'Lord of all hopefulness'

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,
whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,
be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnal*, 1927; harm. *Hymnal 1982*

Remembrance Frank O'Brien, III

Anthem 'King Jesus hath a garden' *Sung by the choir*
Traditional Carol

King Jesus hath a garden, full of divers flowers,
Where I rejoice with great delight, all times and hours.

*There naught is heard but Paradise bird,
Harp, dulcimer, lute,
With cymbal, trumpet and tymbal,
And the tender, soothing flute.*

The Lily, white in blossom fair, is Chastity:
The Violet, with sweet perfume, Humility.

The bonny Damask-rose is known as Patience:
The blithe and thrifty Marygold, Obedience.

The Crown Imperial bloometh too in yonder place,
Tis Charity, of stock divine, the flower of grace.

Yet, 'mid the brave, the bravest prize may claim
The Star of Bethlehem — Jesus — bless'd be his Name!

Ah! Jesu Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss complete,
Make thou my heart thy garden-plot, fair, trim and neat.

Lesson John 14:1-6 *read by Lilah O'Brien Aubrey*

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 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? 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Homily The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Prayers

O God, we know that all things work together for good to them
that love you; we know that though we walk through
the valley of the shadow of death, you are always
with us, and that there is nothing to fear but the loss of you;
we know that nothing can separate us from those we love,
and that in your safe keeping they are free from danger and harm;
Knowing these things, O God, may we go quietly forward
from day to day,
Not looking too far ahead, taking each step with the confidence that
What we are asked to do or dare, for that you will give
Us the strength we need.

Amen.

We seem to give her back to you, O God, who gave
her first to us. Yet, as you did not lose her in giving,
so we do not lose her by her return.
Not as the world gives do you give.
What you give you do not take away.
For what is yours is also ours. We are yours and life is eternal.
And love is immortal, and death is only a horizon, and
a horizon is but the limit of our sight.

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,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

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 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.

**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 Muffin. 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.

Final Prayer & Blessing Bishop Clark Grew

Hymn 376 'Joyful, joyful we adore thee'

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.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) Copyright © reprinted with the permission of Charles Scribner's Sons. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
 Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

Postlude 'Fanfare in D'
 Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881)



O Lord, we rejoice and thank you for the life of Marianna Mead O'Brien on earth with us. We thank you for her indomitable courage and strength in times of sorrow or illness and her unshakable belief that some good is born from every adversity. We remember her gaiety and laughter, her boundless energy and enthusiasm, her adventurous spirit and love. We are grateful for her determination to reach out to those less fortunate, her devotion to helping children, and her great joy in her family and friends. Most of all, we thank you for the gift of unending love she gave to each one of us. She lived her life according to Thy will, O Lord, and our lives have been enriched forever.

- Adapted from a prayer written by Marianna Mead O'Brien for her mother, Elsie Talbott Mead

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Greeters

Joan G. Olgivy Holden
Seldon Wells Tearse
Emilie Mead Pryor
Kenny MacLean
Stewart Forbes

Readers

Louise Walker O'Brien
Lilah O'Brien Aubrey

Remembrances

Elsie Mead Walker
Frank O'Brien, III
Elsie O'Brien Aubrey

Musicians

Members of the Trinity Choir
Colin Lynch, *Associate Director of Music and Organist*

Clergy

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward, *Senior Associate Rector*
Rt. Rev. J. Clark Grew (Bishop of Ohio, retired)

Muffin's family invites you to join them for a reception immediately following the service in Trinity's undercroft.

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