



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

THE REVEREND
DIANE BOWYER BRELSFORD

February 22, 1930 – June 8, 2021



July 17, 2021

11:00 AM

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Duwamish Tribe.

Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral. Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate, please turn off all cell phones and audible devices. Please, no photography during the liturgy.



PRELUDE

Pastorella, BWV 590

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

On Eagle's Wings

WORDS: Michael Joncas (b. 1951)

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,
My Rock in whom I trust!"

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear:
Under his wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

For to his angels he's given a command
To guard you in all your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Please stand, as able, for the anthems and entrance procession.

ANTHEMS

IAM 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 COLLECT

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 493

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O GOD of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Diane. 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. All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated for the Welcome and Remembrance.

WELCOME

Dean Thomason

REMEMBRANCE

Ginna Brelsford

All stand, as able.

OPENING HYMN *Jerusalem, my happy home* ♦ sung by all

TUNE: *Land of Rest*

1. Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?
2. Thy saints are crowned with glo - ry great; they see God face to face;
3. There Da - vid stands with harp in hand as mas - ter of the choir:
4. Our La - dy sings Mag - ni - fi - cat with tune sur - pass - ing sweet,
5. Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see

When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
they tri - umph still, they still re - jice in that most hap - py place.
ten thou - sand times would one be blest who might this mu - sic hear.
and bless - ed mar - tyrs' har - mo - ny doth ring in ev - ery street.
thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

The Hymnal 1982 #620, WORDS: F.B.P. (ca. 16th cent.), alt., public domain;
MUSIC: American folk hymn; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983), © 1938 by J. Fischer & Bro.

Please be seated for the readings.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING

Isaiah 61:1-3

read by Gregg Brelsford

THE spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 23 ♦ led by the Presider

Dominus regit me

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. ♦

READING*Revelation 7:9-17**read by Taylor Brelsford*

ILOOKED, 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

After a brief pause, the Presider stands; all rise, as able, for the proclamation of the Gospel.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *John 6:35-40*

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

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

JESUS said to the people, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 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.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

All stand, as able, for the recitation of the Creed and the prayers.

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(spoken by all in unison)*

**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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

led by Jim Brelsford

Deacon For our sister Diane let us pray to God our Creator saying:
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor God, your will for us is abundant life;
receive Diane now into the fullness of life in your presence.

***Assembly* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor You know the thoughts of our hearts and our search for faith;
shed the brightness of your light on Diane, who also sought
understanding.

***Assembly* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor You are greater than all our ideas and images of you;
draw Diane into the mystery of your being.

***Assembly* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We know you as perfect Mercy and Love;
welcome Diane in the grace of that love and mercy.

***Assembly* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We praise you as the giver of life;
gather all who mourn into the hope of renewed life.

***Assembly* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor The Church commends all who die to the care of Christ, the love of
God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit; and so we commend
Diane to you, giving thanks for the gift of her life.

***Assembly* Hear our prayer.**

Presider May the Holy One, to whom all the desires of our hearts are known
before we ask, hear our prayers for Diane, and for all who mourn,
and grant us newness of life, and peace.

***All* Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***Assembly* And also with you.**

Those in the nave exchange a sign of peace, respecting others' desires for distance to be maintained. Those participating from home are invited to take a moment at this point in the service to text or email someone with whom you would like to share the peace of Christ.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Today's offering will be split between the Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network and Saint Mark's Cathedral.

OFFERTORY SOLO *Prayer of St. Francis*

Sebastian Temple (1928-1997)

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord.
And where there is doubt, true faith in you.

O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled, as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light.
And where there's sadness ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

All stand, as able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 367

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider 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:

**All Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider 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,

***All* We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Presider 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.

***All* AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

In silence, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Assembly Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Presider invites us to the meal: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All may be seated for the time of Communion.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table.

Please follow the directions of the Liturgical Ministers. Wafers are distributed by priests at standing stations at the head of three aisles. Before receiving a wafer, please sanitize your hands. The priest will place the wafer into your outstretched palm taking care not to touch your hand.

- ◆ *If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, simply ask the priest for one at the time of Communion.*
- ◆ *Communion is currently being offered in one kind. The full grace of the sacrament is received with only the bread.*

Those worshipping at home are invited to pray:

PRAYER AT THE TIME OF COMMUNION

(Forward Movement, 2014)

O Christ, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,
I pray you to come into my heart.
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,
my soul, and my mind.
Let nothing separate me from you;
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN *I am the bread of life* ♦ *sung by all* TUNE: *I Am the Bread of Life*



1. I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall not hunger; he who be-
2. The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and they who
3. Un-less you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and
4. I am the re-sur-rec-tion, I am the life. They who be-
5. Yes, Lord, we be-lieve that you are the Christ, the



- lieves in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me un-less the Fa-ther draws them.
eat of this bread, they shall live for ev-er, they shall live for ev-er.
drink of his blood, you shall not have life with-in you, you shall not have life with-in you,
lieve in me ev-en if they die, they shall live for ev-er.
Son of God, who has come in-to the world.



And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up, and I will



raise them up on the last day.

All stand, as able.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Almighty God,

All 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 COMMENDATION

The ministers stand at the Paschal Candle, the symbol of our risen life in Christ.

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

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

Presider Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Diane. 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.
Assembly **Amen.**

BLESSING *The Presider asks God’s blessing on the Assembly. All respond: Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN *Amazing Grace* ♦ *sung by all*

TUNE: *New Britain*



1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,



I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.
how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*The Hymnal 1982 #671 (stanzas 1, 2, & 5), WORDS: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, John Rees (19th cent.), public domain;
MUSIC: from Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (1919-2010),
harmonization © 1974 by Angondon Press. Used by permission.*

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Assembly **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Please remain standing for the voluntary and the closing procession.

VOLUNTARY *Gravement* from Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572

J.S. Bach



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

PRESIDER

The Right Reverend Gregory H. Rickel

PREACHER

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

ASSISTING PRIEST

The Reverend Canon Jennifer King Daugherty

DEACON

The Reverend Earl Grout

ASSISTING LAY MINISTER

Lynne Markova

CRUCIFER

Ray Miller

SACRISTAN

Michael Seewer

ALTAR GUILD

Walter Stuteville

LECTORS

Gregg Brelsford

Taylor Brelsford

INTERCESSOR

Jim Brelsford

REMEMBRANCE

GINNA BRELSTORF

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

Wayne Duncan

Janet Miller

Steve Moen

Sandra Piscitello

MUSICIANS

Rebekah Gilmore, *soloist*

John Stuntebeck, *organist*

SOUND BOARD

Michael Perera

VIDEOGRAPHY

Christopher Brown

Music and texts under copyright are reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-706820

THE REVEREND DIANE BRELSFORD

February 22, 1930 – June 8, 2021

We celebrate the peaceful transition of the Reverend Diane Bowyer Brelsford, 91, on June 8, 2021, at her longtime residence of Bayview Retirement Center, in Seattle, Washington. We mourn her radiant smile, her gracious Southern charm, and her steadfast activism. We cherish her extraordinary example of transformation from a Southern belle to the activist matriarch who instilled in her children the importance of respecting diversity and taking stands in life, no matter how uncomfortable, to contribute to the healing of wounds and preservation of our planet.

Born on February 22, 1930, to Hubbard Taylor and Virginia Wills Bowyer, Diane and her two older sisters grew up in the Highland Park suburbs of Dallas, Texas. In the outdoors, surrounded by nature and animals, the future Reverend Diane first noted her deep connection to God. She devoted her life to serving as a channel to extend love and care to all. In her words, “it is impossible to fall out of God’s net, no matter what happens.”

Passionate about the art of healing, Diane announced to her grandmother and mother at the age of 13 that she wanted to become a doctor. Of commencing her studies in medicine she humorously observed, “Well, guess who I met the first two weeks at the University of Texas? My future husband, Harry Brelsford.” They married on June 24, 1949, in Dallas, Texas.

Pausing her studies to start her family, Diane gave birth to her first son, Gregg, in Houston, Texas; followed by sons Taylor and James in Billings, Montana; daughter Virginia (Ginna) and son Harry in Denver, Colorado.

Diane later returned to school at the University of Denver, attaining both her Bachelor’s and Master of Arts in special education and speech pathology. Her first job was at a developmental evaluation center associated with the Denver General Hospital.

Beginning in Denver in the 1960s, Diane was active in the civil rights and peace movements including marching in protests against the Vietnam War (a practice Diane continued in Anchorage, Denver, San Francisco, and Seattle). She supported her eldest sons in conscientiously objecting to the draft. These events encouraged her to become a member of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, where she took training to be a conscientious objection counselor.

The family moved Anchorage, Alaska in 1971, following her husband's position as legal counsel for the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Diane immersed herself in the community at St. Mary's Church, while working in special education and caring for her extended family. Throughout this phase of her life, Diane continued to serve while surviving breast cancer and multiple sclerosis.

In 1983, she felt called to pursue theological training including Clinical Pastoral Education, leading to her ordination to the diaconate in Alaska. She then attended the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, pursuing her interest in addition treatment and hospice. She graduated in 1986, followed by ordination as a priest at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco in 1988. She was among the pioneering generation of women in the priesthood.

Diane and Harry's last relocation brought them to Seattle in 1991. She joined the ministry of the healing rail and others at Ascension Church and St. Mark's Cathedral for nearly 30 years; she also worked as a hospice chaplain with the Group Health Cooperative. Diane remained engaged in peace and justice initiatives and sought to empower those with addictions towards recovery through Al Anon and other 12-step programs.

Over the course of her 91 years, Diane was a devoted doctor of the soul as an Episcopal priest and a tireless advocate for fuller equality in society. We, Diane's family and loved ones, celebrate her life experiences and values. We know her gentle smile, love for all, and optimism in spiritual life continue to bless us all. In the words of a St. Mark's Cathedral Eucharist Visitor, "God is enjoying sweet Diane now."

Diane is survived by five children Gregg, Taylor, James, Virginia (Ginna), and Harry; three daughters-in-law: Puyong, Terry, Lily, a son-in-law Bob Herr; nine grandchildren: Ginna Ruth, Jimin, Alan, Julian, Christa, Nicholas, Alexandra,

Geoffrey and Harry, and two step-grandchildren: Alyssa and Jason. Her beloved great grandchildren include: Raven, Robbie, Ari, Leo, Otto, Hunter, and Macie. She is also mourned by her cherished nieces: Camille Randow and Claire Lander and their children.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents; sisters Patricia, Margorie and Virginia (Cummings); nieces Eve Sweeney, Virginia Thawley, and nephew, William Thawley; sister-in-law Nancy Thawley; mother-in-law Virginia Brelsford; her first grandson, Gregg Harry Igcaqoq Brelsford (Little Bear); and daughter-in-law Kristen Brelsford.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to: Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network (GSA Network), a national LGBTQ+ youth leadership development nonprofit co-led by her grand-daughter, Ginna Ruth, bit.ly/RevDiane; or to St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245 Tenth Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98102, saintmarks.org.







SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

1245 Tenth Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102
206-323-0300
WWW.SAINTMARKS.ORG