

St. John's Church

Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.



A Celebration of the Life of



Mary Gay Townsend



Friday, December 6, 2024

12:00 pm



THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE ONE

Mary Gay Townsend

December 31, 1958 - November 28, 2024

Prelude
Opening Hymn

Fight the good fight with all thy might

Pentecost

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might, Christ is thy
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace, lift up thine
 *3 Cast care a - side, lean on thy Guide; his bound - less
 *4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chan - geth

strength and Christ thy right; lay hold on life, and
 eyes and seek his face; life with its way be -
 mer - cy will pro - vide; trust, and thy trust - ing
 not, and thou art dear; on - ly be - lieve, and

it shall be thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 fore us lies, Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
 soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.
 thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875). Music: *Pentecost*, William Boyd (1847-1928).

Funeral Anthems

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
 Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though they die.
 And everyone who has life, and has committed
 themselves 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 themselves, and none becomes
 their own master when they die. 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.

Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Mary Gay, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Jamie, Teddie, Zoe, JB, Faith, and all of us in our grief. Surround us with your love, that we may not be overwhelmed by our loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

Reflections

CJ and David Miller

Chandler Holbrook and Kylie Hart

Musical Offering

Abide with me

Eventide

Reflections

Peach Schnier, Lili Noessen, and Liz Remsen

JB, Zoe and Teddie Townsend

Hymn 671

Amazing Grace

New Britain

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 *5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:14-19,34-35,37-39)

Read by the Rev. Jesse Lebus

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

A Reading of Poetry: "In Memoriam" by William Morecomb

Read by Tim Schneir and Maisie Noesen

For a second you were flying
Like you always wanted to
Now you'll fly forever
In skies of azure blue

We'll see your smile in every ray
Of sunshine after rain
And hear the echo of your laughter
Over all the pain

The world's a little quieter now
The colours have lost their hue
The birds are singing softly
And our hearts are missing you

Each time we see a little cloud
Or a rainbow soaring high
We'll think of you and gently
Wipe a tear from our eye.

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

Read by Greg Miller, Jr.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life." Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. "

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

The Homily

The Very Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach

Musical Offering

In Paradisum, from "Requiem"

G. Fauré

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant and People together, standing.

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 resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *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,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Prayers

The People respond to every petition with Amen.

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we with Mary Gay and all those whom we love and see no longer may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of your holy Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a religious and holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to Mary Gay and all your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. *Amen.*

O God, who bindest us to life by holy and tender ties: We gratefully recall all that our beloved Mary Gay was to us; all that she stood for in the world. May we live even more constantly in the companionship of her spirit, and carry out, in the old spheres in which we together moved, so much of her purpose as we can. May we be kind to the friends she loved; devoted to the community in which she lived; loyal to the causes which she served. Thus in our life may she still live on, to our own comfort and the welfare of thy world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Father of all, we pray to you for Mary Gay: Grant her your peace; let light perpetual shine upon her; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in her the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Commendation

Priest Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,
People where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Priest 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 thou 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 servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Priest Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Mary Gay. 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.*

The Blessing

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and
 ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that
 Je - sus Christ is born! 1 While shep - herds kept their
 2 The shep - herds feared and
 3 Down in a low - ly
 watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
 trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
 man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and
Repeat Refrain
 hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

*A Reception follows the service at the Piping Rock Club
 150 Piping Rock Rd, Locust Valley, NY 11560*

Service Participants

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Clergy:

The Very Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach, *Presider*

The Rev. Jesse Lebus, *Assisting*

✠

Ushers:

Nancy Cashin, Member of the Vestry; Laura Swiggett, Chair, Outreach Committee; Billy Wresch, Senior Warden;
Jonathan Hatch, Treasurer

✠

Musicians:

Mrs. Katrina Montagna, Ms. Cloe San Antonio, Mr. Bryce Westervelt, Mr. Robert McDaniels, and the Chancel Choir
of St. John's Church

Dr. Carol Weitner, *Organist*

