

A Celebration of the Life of
The Rev. Marguerite (Peggy) A. Howell
April 29, 1947 – April 6, 2020



September 25, 2021
10:00 am

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
North Billerica, Massachusetts

In the Episcopal Church, the liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all 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." Reverend Peggy called this service a "celebration."

Seen & Unseen

By Mark Bozzuti-Jones

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord, or
in the midst of life we are in death...
that is how we begin every funeral, every celebration of life.
We hold fast amidst the tears, broken hearts, memories, and loss,
amidst the emptiness that memory brings—shadows of ourselves and our loved ones. Tears and
loss tear at our hearts. Jesus weeps and heals with us.
We hold fast to the God of life.
Our dead, our loved ones, like God we do not see.
Our dead, our loved ones, like God live in eternity.
For those we see no longer: we remember them, we give thanks for them, we thank God that we
got to know them and love them.
We ask God to console us,
we ask for faith to see in death the promise of eternal life,
and in God we remind ourselves that one day we will see God and see all who have died (again).
Those who die never leave us: we see them in our memories and in the patterns of our living and
loving hearts.
At home, we see their favorite cup, their clothes, the empty chair, and the things they loved.
At church, we remember the things they did, the things they said, and how they made us laugh,
how they made us see God.
We remember in the loss and through the tears and in the midst of the broken hearts...
we remember that Jesus Christ rose victorious from the dead.
We remember that Jesus always comforts us with blessed hope,
Jesus comforts us with the hope of everlasting life.
We remember that for us, the faithful people who see dimly, as though in a mirror,
that life is changed, not ended.
We remember how we are all loved by God: the living and the dead.
We remember that God has prepared a place for us and that we will see God.
We will see God and all those who have died.
We will see God and all who have died, and our hearts will be filled with joy.
See: Jesus lives and we all live—we all will live (in God).
In the resurrected life of Jesus, the seen and unseen and Life are One.

St. Anne's Mission Statement

*We seek to be led by the spirit to understand God's purpose for the world
with our mission being to respond through Christ
in worship, education, fellowship and service.*

Service of Celebration & Holy Eucharist

Please wear your masks at all times, even while you are seated. The Town of Billerica and our Diocese of Massachusetts have mandated this. Thank you, also, for observing physical distancing between households to the best of your ability.

Prelude

“Canon in D”

J. Pachelbel

From the Book of Common Prayer, beginning on p. 491

All stand while the following anthems are said.

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.

Please be seated.

Welcome to St. Anne's

Collect at the Burial of an Adult, BCP p. 493

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 Peggy, 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. **People: Amen.**

The Lessons

The people sit. The lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading from the Book of Revelation (7:9-17).

After this 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.”

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 23

Led by Ethan Howell

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.

The Gospel

Then, all standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (14:1-6).

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“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.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says
The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Memories & Thanksgivings

Please be seated.

Michael Howell & Alison Stallings, Children of the Rev’d Howell

Grandchildren of the Rev’d Howell

Words from the Rev’d Linda Ricketts

Deacon Pete Jeffrey

Please stand for the prayers.

Prayers for a Vigil, BCP p. 465

Dear Friends: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Let us pray, then, for our sister Peggy, that she may rest from her labors, and enter into the light of God's eternal sabbath rest.

Receive, O Lord, your servant, for she returns to you.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister Peggy.

Wash her in the holy font of everlasting life, and clothe her in her heavenly wedding garment.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister Peggy.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say 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 stand or kneel.

Then 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be said

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Facing the people, 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.

The ministers receive the Sacrament, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Please be seated. A minister will come to you with a single serving package of Communion wafer and wine, and a napkin. If you do not wish to receive, you may cross your arms over your chest. After you have received, please place your empty package and napkin in the basket that will be brought to you.

Communion anthem one “Eat this bread” Gather 806

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in him and you will not thirst.

Communion anthem two “Jesus, remember me” Gather 422

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.

Communion anthem three “On eagle’s wings” (instrumental) WLP 810

After Communion, the people stand as the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People (BCP p. 498)

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 Dean may bless the people. (BCP p. 503)

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

A Deacon or other Minister may dismiss them with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Exit hymn “Love divine” Hymnal 657

The Hymnal 1982 - #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 - fect -

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)
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Postlude “Joyful, joyful” Beethoven
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We have placed offering plates in both the front and rear of the church. Reverend Peggy requested that all memorial donations will go to St. Anne’s Church. You may leave them in the plates as you enter or leave this morning. Offerings in honor of Rev. Peggy’s ministry in Billerica may also be mailed to the church.

Please remain in your pew until an usher indicates your exit.

Ministers today

Celebrant	The Rev’d Jennifer D. Beal, Priest-in-charge at St. Anne’s
Assisting Clergy	The Rev’d Tom Barrington, friend of the Rev’d Peggy Howell The Rev’d Kay Evans, friend of the Rev’d Peggy Howell The Rev’d Pete Jeffrey, Deacon from this parish The Rev’d Kit Lonergan, Dean of the Merrimack Valley Deanery The Rev’d Jonathan MacKenzie, retired, member of St. Anne’s
Director of Music & Organist	Mr. Peter Morelli
Singer	Maria Martin
Acolyte	Mr. Michael Hopkins, Co-warden
Prayers of the People	Former Wardens who served with the Rev’d Peggy Howell
Ushers	Grandchildren of Rev. Peggy Howell St. Anne’s Re-Gathering Committee
Film Crew (Video)	Ms. Sandra Giroux Mr. Ron Desmarais
Film Crew (Audio)	Mr. Mark Komarinski Mr. Michael Hopkins, Co-Warden

St. Anne’s, N. Billerica Online Services can be found at:
 Website: <http://stannes-billerica.org>
 YouTube: St Anne’s Episcopal Church No Billerica MA
 Face Book: St Anne’s Episcopal Church No Billerica MA
 Billerica Access Television (BATV) – See programing guide

Family of the Reverend Peggy Howell

John Howell, husband
Alison Stallings, daughter
Carlton Stallings, son-in-law
Nathan Stallings, grandson
Rebekah Stallings, granddaughter
Abigail Stallings, granddaughter
Rachel Stallings, granddaughter
Michael Howell, son
Kim Howell, daughter-in-law
Ethan Howell, grandson
Keira Howell, granddaughter

Following this service, please join the family and parish in Bixby Hall for a reception in honor of Rev. Peggy. We ask that you try to keep your mask on as much as possible.

You are invited to take home with you an ornament of the church, made during Rev. Peggy's time here. These extras have been delivered to us from the Billerica Historical Society's overflow closet.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

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