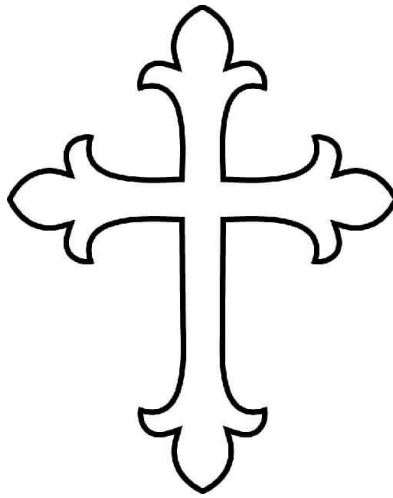


A Celebration of Life

Fr. William “Bill” M. Dunning

December 6, 1936 – August 12, 2026



Celebration of Life
Saturday, August 22, 2026
11:00 am

Sherwood Episcopal Church
Five Sherwood Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030

***Note:** Please feel free to remain seated during the service if unable to stand. The people's responses are in **bold**.*

Prelude

Welcome
Remembrances
Tolling of the Bell

*The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey, Rector
Jim Lehner*

THE OPENING ANTHEM

BCP pg. 491

Please stand as you are able. The Priest says the following anthem:

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 forever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awakening, 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 of us 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.

OPENING HYMN

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended

1. The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at thy behest;
to thee our morning hymns ascended,
thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

2. We thank thee that thy Church, unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping,
and rests not now by day or night.

3. As o'er each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

4. The sun that bids us rest is waking
our brethren 'neath the western sky,
and hour by hour fresh lips are making
thy wondrous doings heard on high.

5. So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
till all thy creatures own thy sway.

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended, #24 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893). Music: St. Clement, Clement Cottevill Scholefield (1839-1904).

THE COLLECT

The Celebrant says

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 brother Bill.
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.

Anthem

Pie Jesu (*Requiem*)

Gabriel Fauré

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem dona eis requiem sempiternam requiem.

Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest, grant them rest, eternal rest.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Wisdom 3:1-5,9

Kathy Shannahan

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,

³and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

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

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

²Those 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.

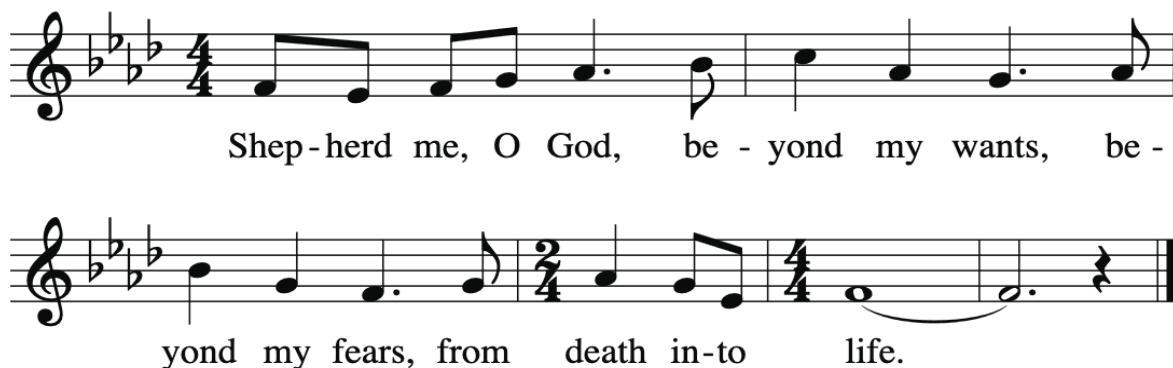
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

Psalm 23

Psalm 23, adapt. M.H.

Marty Haugen



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in-to life.

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Cantor: Refrain

All: Refrain

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

All: Refrain

2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

All: Refrain

3. Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff,
my comfort and my hope.

All: Refrain

4. You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

All: Refrain

5. Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore.

All: Refrain

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SEQUENCE HYMN Oh, what their joy and their glory must be H623

1. O what their joy and their glory must be,
those endless Sabbaths the blessed ones see;
crown for the valiant, to weary ones rest:
God shall be all, and in all ever blest.
2. Truly "Jerusalem" name we that shore,
city of peace that brings joy evermore;
wish and fulfillment are not severed there,
nor do things prayed for come short of the prayer.
3. There, where no troubles distraction can bring,
we the sweet anthems of Zion shall sing;
while for thy grace, Lord, their voices of praise
thy blessed people eternally raise.

4. Now, in the meanwhile, with hearts raised on high,
we for that country must yearn and must sigh,
seeking Jerusalem, dear native land,
through our long exile on Babylon's strand.
5. Low before him with our praises we fall,
of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all;
of whom, the Father; and in whom, the Son;
through whom, the Spirit, with them ever One.

O what their joy and their glory must be, #623 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Peter Abelard (1079-1142); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Q quanta qualia*, melody from *Antiphoner*, 1681; harm. John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

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

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 life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend C. Allen Spicer

THE APOSTLES' CREED

BCP Pg.496

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say.

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 PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

Suzy Beck

For brother Bill, 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 Bill, and dry the tears of those who weep.

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.

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother Bill; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Hear us, Lord.

The Priest concludes the prayers with the following collect:

Father of all, we pray to you for Bill, 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.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

THE OFFERTORY

The people are seated while the altar is prepared for the celebration of Holy Communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Mother Nancy following the service. To receive either bread or wine is considered full communion. You may receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer; please indicate to the minister your need. To receive the wine, please assist the Chalice by holding the base of the chalice (cup) and guiding it to your lips. If you are not baptized or would prefer not to receive communion for any personal or religious reason, you are still invited to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing from the priest. (Please place your arms across your chest to indicate your desire to receive a blessing.) Above all, remember that all are welcome here at Sherwood!

Offertory Hymn

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide

1 Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3 I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

4 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?

I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide, #662 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Henry Frances Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B – BCP pg. 368

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth ...

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:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

S130



might, _____ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, _____ hea - ven and earth are

full, _____ full of your glo - ry. Ho -

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes _____

_____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho - san - na



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prayers over the bread and wine.

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 the Eucharistic prayer and at the conclusion says:

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 forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP pg. 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Facing the people, the Celebrant offers an invitation to Holy Communion. The people are seated

1. I am the bread of life;
they who come to me shall not hunger;
they who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father draw them.

*And I will raise them up,
and I will raise them up on the
last day.*

2. The Bread that I will give
is my Flesh for the life of the world,
and all who eat this bread,
they shall live for ever. [Refrain]
3. Unless you eat
of the Flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his Blood,
you shall not have life within you. [Refrain]
4. I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
They who believe in me,
even if they die,
they shall live for ever. [Refrain]
5. Yes, Lord, we believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God
who has come into the world. [Refrain]

I am the bread of life, #335 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), adapt. of John 6. Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928). Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP pg. 498

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Please stand as you are able.

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 COMMENDATION

The Celebrant and other ministers take their place at the casket.

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.

The Celebrant says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Bill.
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 Celebrant pronounces a blessing over the people, and the people respond,
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

He is risen, he is risen!

H180

He is risen, he is risen!
Tell it out with joyful voice:
he has burst his three days' prison;

let the whole wide earth rejoice:
death is conquered, we are free,
Christ has won the victory.

Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,
with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death's long shadows have departed;
Jesus' woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore —
sin and pain can vex no more.

Come, with high and holy hymning,
hail our Lord's triumphant day;
not one darksome cloud is dimming
yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o'er the purple east,
symbol of our Easter feast.

He is risen, he is risen!
He hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison,
risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam
on our longing eyes shall stream.

He is risen, he is risen, #180 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music: *Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander (1650-1680).

The liturgical ministers and family will process out. The ushers will dismiss the congregation by row.

Postlude Largo from Symphony No.9, Op.95 "New World" Antonín Dvořák

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Fr. Bill by the people of Sherwood Episcopal Church.

The flowers in front of the altar and on the casket were given with love by Suzy Beck, Barbar Bull, Anne Gearhart, Kathleen Shannahan and The Church of the Holy Comforter, Lutherville.

Memorial contributions may be directed to:

Sherwood Episcopal Church (QR codes below)

and

Boston University College of Arts and Sciences @ give.bu.edu. Please specify the donation is in memory of William Dunning '59.



← PayPal



← This QR code will take you to Sherwood's website where you may access your Vanco Give+ account.

Participants for Today's Service

The Right Reverend John L. Rabb, Bishop Suffragan, Retired - *Celebrant*

The Reverend C. Allen Spicer - *Preacher*

The Reverend Nancy H. Hennessey - *Rector*

The Venerable Devise Schiavone - *Archdeacon*

Greg Seseek - *Music Director and Organist*

Gayssie Lugo - *Soloist*

Greg Szymaszek - *Crucifer/Acolyte*

Jack and Jane Turnbull and Sandy Thompson - *Ushers*

SHERWOOD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Service - 10 am

Join us in person or on Facebook Live

Sherwoodcockeysville.org

We welcome you to Sherwood Episcopal Church.

Please know that whoever you are, and whatever your background, you are welcome here. As we gather today to celebrate the life of Fr. Bill Dunning, we hope you will allow this sacred space to be a container for your grief and that you will receive comfort and hope through the prayers, hymns, and scripture readings. We also want you to know that the light of love that burns here at Sherwood — in our worship, our Christian formation, and our outreach to the community — is offered to the glory of God and in response to Jesus Christ's call to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel. It is our sincere hope that you will return often, and that whenever you come, you will come just as you are — to pray, to find comfort, and to encounter God in this holy place.