

*The Burial of the Dead*  
&  
*A Celebration for the Life of*  
***Janet Collins***  
*September 24, 1941-May 13th, 2025*



*All Saints' Episcopal Church*  
*Chelmsford, Massachusetts*  
10:00 AM  
Wednesday, May 21th, 2025

## **THE ENTRANCE**

**Opening Hymn:** “King of Love”

*Blue Hymnal 645*

Opening Anthems

*Book of Common Prayer p. 491*

*All stand while one or more of 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.

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you

***People***        **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

*Celebrant says the following Collect*

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

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Old Testament Reading**

**Isaiah 61 1-3**

**Cori Brimacombe**

**Great-niece**

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*        The Word of the Lord.

***People***        **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 23** (*Spoken by all*)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**New Testament Reading**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9**

***Celebrant***

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

***Reader***            The Word of the Lord.  
***People***            **Thanks be to Go**

**A Reading from the Gospel of John**

**John 10:11-16**

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

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

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord

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

**Homily**

The Rev. Sean Maloney

**Apostles' Creed** *BCP p. 496*

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

*Celebrant and People*

**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**

For our sister Janet, 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 Janet, 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 sister eternal life.

***Hear us, Lord.***

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Celebrant concludes*

Father of all, we pray to you for Janet, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

***Amen.***

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People* And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Offertory Anthem:** Amazing Grace

*Blue Hymnal 671*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

*BCP p. 367*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** 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. 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.

*Celebrant and People*

**Sanctus** (*Spoken*)

**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.

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 Janet and 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**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* *Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey of faith,  
you are welcome to receive the communion of Christ.  
Non-wheat bread is available at communion for those who are  
gluten intolerant. Please ask the server for a rice wafer host.*

**Communion Music:** I am the Bread of Life

*Blue Hymnal 335*

**Post-Communion Prayer** (*said together*) 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 COMMENDATION**

**Commendation Sentence:**

*BCP p. 499*

*Celebrant* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

***People* where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Celebrant* 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.

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

*The Celebrant, facing the body, says*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Janet. 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.**

**Recessional** "Guide us o thou great Jehovah"

*Blue Hymnal 6*



## **Blessing & Dismissal**

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

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### **STATEMENT OF INCLUSION FOR ALL SAINTS' PARISH**

All Saints' Episcopal Church welcomes all people who seek the love of God without regard to ability, age, color, economic circumstance, ethnic background, family configuration, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation.

We promise to "seek and to serve Christ in all persons, ...strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." (From the Baptismal Covenant).

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### **PARTICIPANTS**

Clergy  
Organist

The Rev. Sean Maloney  
John Pierce



## *Janet Collins*

September 24, 1941– May 13, 2025

Janet N. Collins, 83, of Bedford, passed away unexpectedly on May 13, 2025, with her family by her side.

Janet was born and raised in Rochester, New York and was the daughter of the late Fred and Bernice (Hilzinger) Nielsen. After graduating from Irondequoit High School in 1959, she attended St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, where she received a bachelor's degree in English.

After teaching high school English for a short time in Potsdam, NY, Janet moved back to Canton, NY to start a family. When her children were young, she worked as a manager for Smith's Department Store, where she made many life-long friendships. Once her children were grown, Janet had a successful career back at St. Lawrence University as the Assistant Director of Development and Research, where she worked until her retirement in 2011.

Upon retiring, Janet moved to Bedford, Massachusetts to be closer to her family. She soon began volunteering most afternoons at the Bedford Historical Society, a position she found great joy and meaning in. She especially looked forward to Bedford Day each year when she could share her love of the Historical Society with everyone who stopped by their booth.

Janet made friends and touched lives everywhere she went. She had a generous spirit and saw the best in everyone. She never met a stranger. When she wasn't busy volunteering or making new friends, Janet enjoyed reading, playing games, and doing puzzles. Above all, she loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Janet was the loving mother of Rebecca Williamson and her partner Michael DeBruin of Bedford and Darren Collins and his wife Debbie of Tyngsborough, cherished grandmother of Addison and Benjamin Collins and the late Nicholas Williamson, and dear sister of Craig Nielsen and his wife Donna of Bloomfield, NY and James Nielsen and his wife June of Carvallis, OR.