

**A Service of Thanksgiving**

**for the Life of**

**Nancy Long Bruni**

**February 6, 1954 – April 19, 2024**



**Thursday, May 2, 2024  
11:00 a.m.**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia**

## The Burial of the Dead

*In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer,  
please observe silence upon entering the nave.*

### Prelude

### Opening Anthems

*Please stand.*

I am the resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord;  
He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;  
And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,  
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;  
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;  
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,  
and not a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,  
and no man dieth to himself.  
For if we live, we live unto the Lord.  
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.  
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;  
Even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

**Hymn 8**      Morning has broken      *Sung by all, standing.*

*Bunessan*

### The Collect

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      **And with thy Spirit.**

*Officiant*      Let us pray.      *A period of silence is kept.*

O God of grace and glory, we remember before thee this day our sister, Nancy. We thank thee for giving her to us, her family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In thy 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 thy call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Words of Remembrance

Benjamin L. Bruni

**Psalm 23**      *Read in unison, seated.*

**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 Reading** Revelation 21:2-7

**Reader** A reading from the Revelation to John.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 416** For the beauty of the earth *Sung by all, standing.*

*Lucerna Laudoniae*

**The Homily**

The Rev. John D. Rohrs

**The Prayers of the People**

*You may stand or kneel.*

**Officiant** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love. **Amen.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Amen.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust Nancy to your never-failing love; receive her into the arms of your mercy, and remember her according to the favor you bear for your people. **Amen.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, she may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all your saints, to receive the crown of life which you promise to all who share in the victory of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Officiant** Father of all, we pray to you for Nancy, 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 Commendation**

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.**

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

### **Blessing**

Paraphrase of Henri Frederic Amiel

**Officiant** Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

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

**Hymn 405** All things bright and beautiful **Sung by all.** *Royal Oak*



*The family invites all gathered to a reception in the Large Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.  
A private family committal preceded this service at Forest Lawn Cemetery.*



**Participants** | *Clergy:* The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins, the Rev. John D. Rohrs; *Words of Remembrance:* Benjamin L. Bruni; *Reader:* Elizabeth Downey Rand; *Organist:* Diana Chou; *Vocalist:* Cassie Cipolla; *Crucifer:* The Rev. Barbara Massey



Death is not  
Extinguishing the light;  
It is putting out the lamp  
Because the dawn has come.  
Rabindranath Tagore

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church + 6000 Grove Ave. Richmond, Virginia 23226 + 804.288.2867 ststephensRVA.org