

*A Service of Celebration &
Thanksgiving for the Life of*

Michael Ondon Stairs

October 13, 1945 - August 11, 2018



September 8, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

*Church of the Redeemer
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania*

Order of Service

*Page Numbers refer to The Book of Common Prayer
Hymn numbers are from The Hymnal 1982.*

The liturgy and music for this service is entirely of Michael's choosing, wishing, as he did, that he be prayed and sung to his rest in the tradition of the faith community that he called his family: the clergy, musicians and parishioners of Church of The Redeemer.

Prelude	<i>Prelude in Eb (St. Anne)</i>	J.S. Bach
	<i>Melodia</i>	M. Reger
	<i>Nimrod</i>	E. Elgar
	<i>Christ lag in Todesbanden</i>	J.S. Bach
	<i>Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn</i>	J.S. Bach

All stand as the bells toll.

Introit	<i>Song for Athene</i>	J. Tavener
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Alleluia. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.
Alleluia. Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your kingdom.
Alleluia. Give rest, O Lord, to your servant who has fallen asleep.
Alleluia. The Choir of Saints have found the well-spring of life and door of paradise.
Alleluia. Life: a shadow and a dream.
Alleluia. Weeping at the grave creates the song: Alleluia.
Alleluia. Come enjoy rewards and crowns I have prepared for you.
Alleluia.

The bells will toll again after the anthem.

Burial Anthems Page 491

Collect Page 493

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
 4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,

1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
 2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word
 4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
 3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Congregation is seated

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained
clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation stands to sing

1 The Lord my God my shep - herd is; how
 2 To whole - ness he re - stores my soul and
 3 Yea, e - ven when I must pass through the
 4 Thou hast in grace my ta - ble spread se -
 5 Then sure - ly I can trust thy love for

1 could I want or need? In pas - tures green, by
 2 doth in mer - cy bless, and helps me take for
 3 val - ley of death's shade, I will not fear, for
 4 cure in all a - larms, and filled my cup, and
 5 all the days to come, that I may tell thy

1 streams se - rene, he safe - ly doth me lead.
 2 his Name's sake the paths of right - eous - ness.
 3 thou art here, to com - fort and to aid.
 4 borne me up in ev - er - last - ing arms.
 5 praise, and dwell for ev - er in thy home.

Congregation is seated

Second Lesson: Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

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.**

Congregation stands to sing

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood Sus - tain me
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I

blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 his un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When all sup - ports are
 then in him be found, Clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

The Gospel: John 14:1-6

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to John.

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Congregation is seated

Homily

The Rev. Peter T. Vanderveen

Congregation stands

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus
Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the
Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the
Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son. With the
Father and the Son he is worshiped
and glorified. He has spoken through
the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church. We acknowledge
one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

Congregation remains standing

Prayers for the Departed

Priest: 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 brother Michael, that he may rest from his labors, and enter into the light of God's eternal sabbath rest.

O God, you led your ancient people by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night: Grant that we, who serve you now on earth, may come to the joy of that heavenly Jerusalem, where all tears are wiped away and where your saints for ever sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessor: Receive, O Lord, your servant, for he returns to you.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Michael.

Wash him in the holy font of everlasting life, and clothe him in his heavenly wedding garment.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Michael.

May he hear your words of invitation, "Come, you blessed of my Father."
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Michael.

May he gaze upon you, Lord, face to face, and taste the blessedness of perfect rest.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Michael.

May angels surround him, and saints welcome him in peace.
Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Michael.

Priest: Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord: Receive our brother Michael into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place. Let his heart and soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Members of the congregation are invited to share
the peace of God with one another.
Please remain standing until after the Offertory Sentence.*

Offertory Sentence

Anthem

Sing me to heaven

D. Gawthrop

In my heart's sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poet's gloss. Words alone are vain and vacant and my heart is mute. In response to aching silence memory summons half heard voices, and my soul finds primal eloquence and wraps me in song, wraps me in song. If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby. If you would win my heart, sing me a love song. If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem, sing me to heaven. Touch in me all love and passion, pain and pleasure, grief and comfort. Sing me a lullaby, a love song, a requiem. Love me, comfort me, bring me to God: sing me a love song, sing me to heaven.

The Holy Communion

Congregation stands

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: 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:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

H. Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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: 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.

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God

H. Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Congregation is seated

***Ushers will invite members of the congregation to come forward for communion,
beginning in the front of the church, progressing to the back.***

***All are welcome to receive Communion. Please proceed by way of the center aisle and return to
your pew via the side aisles. To receive a Blessing, cross your hands over your chest. Infants and
children may receive Communion or a Blessing. If needed, please ask for a gluten free wafer
from the person administering Communion.***

Communion Anthem

Lux Aeterna

Thomas LaVoy

Sung in Latin

English translation

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis aeternum, quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

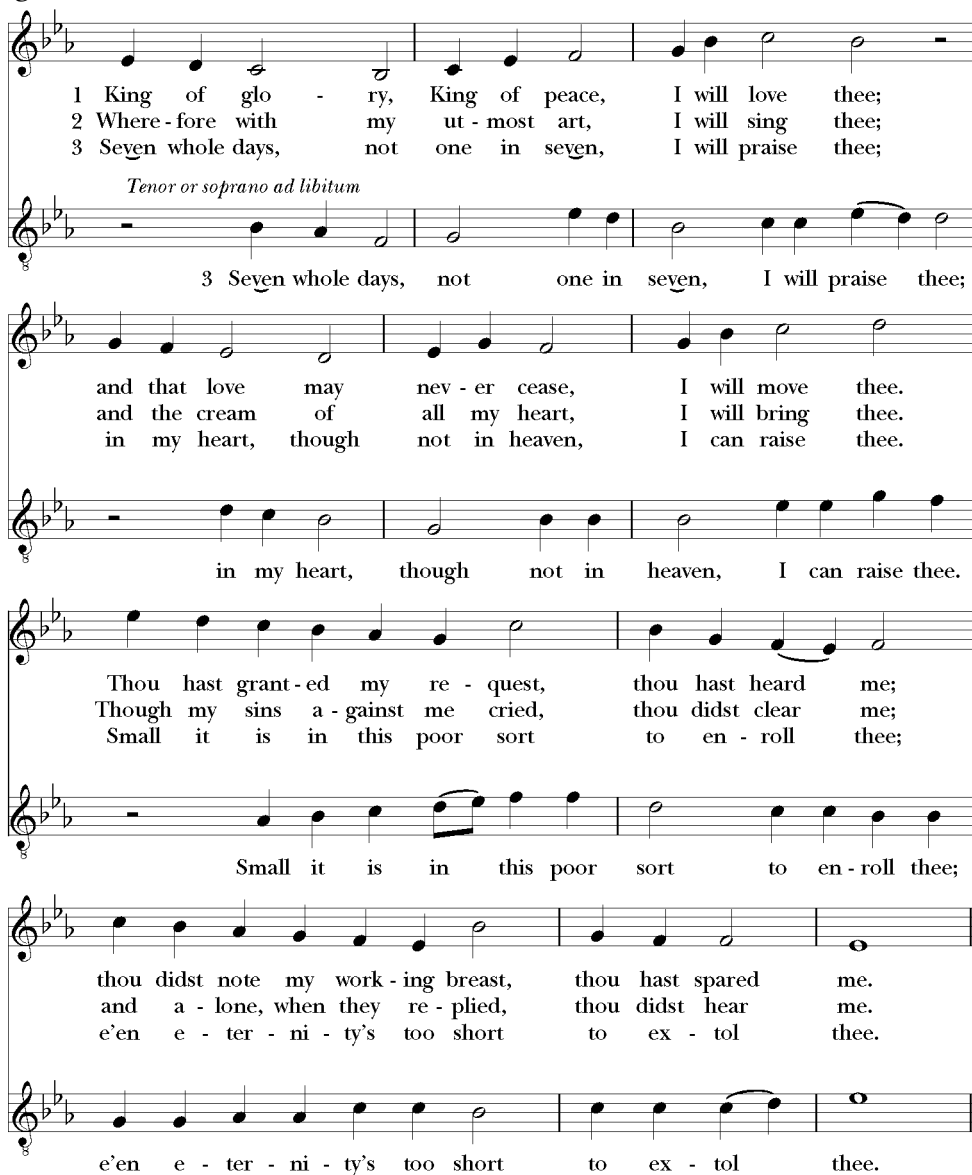
Let everlasting light shine on them, Lord,
with your saints in eternity, for you are merciful.
Eternal rest grant them, Lord,
and may perpetual light shine on them.

Hymn 382

King of glory, King of peace

General Seminary

sung while seated



1 King of glo - ry, King of peace, I will love thee;
2 Where - fore with my ut - most art, I will sing thee;
3 Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;

Tenor or soprano ad libitum

3 Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;

and that love may nev - er cease, I will move thee.
and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.

in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.

Thou hast grant - ed my re - quest, thou hast heard me;
Though my sins a - gainst me cried, thou didst clear me;
Small it is in this poor sort to en - roll thee;

Small it is in this poor sort to en - roll thee;

thou didst note my work - ing breast, thou hast spared me.
and a - lone, when they re - plied, thou didst hear me.
e'en e - ter - ni - ty's too short to ex - tol thee.

e'en e - ter - ni - ty's too short to ex - tol thee.

Congregation stands

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

Congregation remains standing

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.

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

Blessing

Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

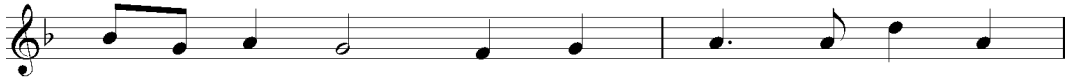
People: The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



1 All my hope on God is found - ed; he doth still my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 God's great good - ness e'er en - dur - eth, deep his wis - dom
 *4 Dai - ly doth the al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on
 5 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



1 trust re - new, me through change and chance he
 2 tray our trust; though with care and toil we
 3 pass - ing thought: splen - dor, light, and life at -
 4 us be - stow; his de - sire our soul de -
 5 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es



1 guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. God un -
 2 build them, tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's
 3 tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of nought. Ev - e -
 4 ligh - teth, plea - sure leads us where we go. Love doth
 5 prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his Son. Christ doth



1 known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.
 2 power, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
 3 rmore from his store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.
 4 stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.
 5 call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Postlude

Choral Prelude on "St. Anne"

C. H. H. Parry

*Following the service the family will proceed to a private interment.
 The congregation is invited to attend the reception immediately following the service at
 the Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Avenue, Haverford.*

Church of the Redeemer

Clergy

The Rev. Peter T. Vanderveen

The Rev. David F. Romanik

The Rev. Jo Ann Jones

Organist & Director of Music

Dr. Michael Diorio

Michael Stairs Curtis Organ Scholar

Adrian Binkley

Choirs

Schola, Redeemer Choir, and Chancel Choir

Acolytes

Kitzie Espenshade

Sev Fahr

Cyril Leahy

Ryan Masterman

Kate Stephan

Caroline Vauclain

Grace Vauclain

Vergers

Bob Mikrut

Nick Masterman

Will Vauclain

Eucharistic Ministers

Anna Gerrity

Charlotte MacLean

Ken Schwenke

Carter Williams

Ushers

Chris D'Angelo

Victoria Leidner

Rob Morris

Colleen McCauley

Sean McCauley

David Shoemaker

Program Assistant

Fran Merritt

Restrooms are located through the large wooden door, halfway down the left side aisle.



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