Rite of Christian Burial

Susan Wade

August 25, 1959 – December 1, 2024



Saturday, April 26, 2025
St. John's Episcopal Church
Ashfield, MA

Welcome to Saint John's!

Our mission at St. John's Church in Ashfield is to grow, through worship, in God's gospel of hospitality and wholeness, and to faithfully live that word in our fellowship, families, communities, and the world. May all who enter here be received as Christ.

An Acknowledgement

We worship and share God's mission on the unceded land of the Nipmuc, Pocumtuc, and Wabanaki peoples. We are mindful that our blessing came at the price of their sorrow and pledge to grow in our awareness of racial injustice with God's help.



Prelude Organist: Duane Nyman

Please stand as the ministers enter the sanctuary

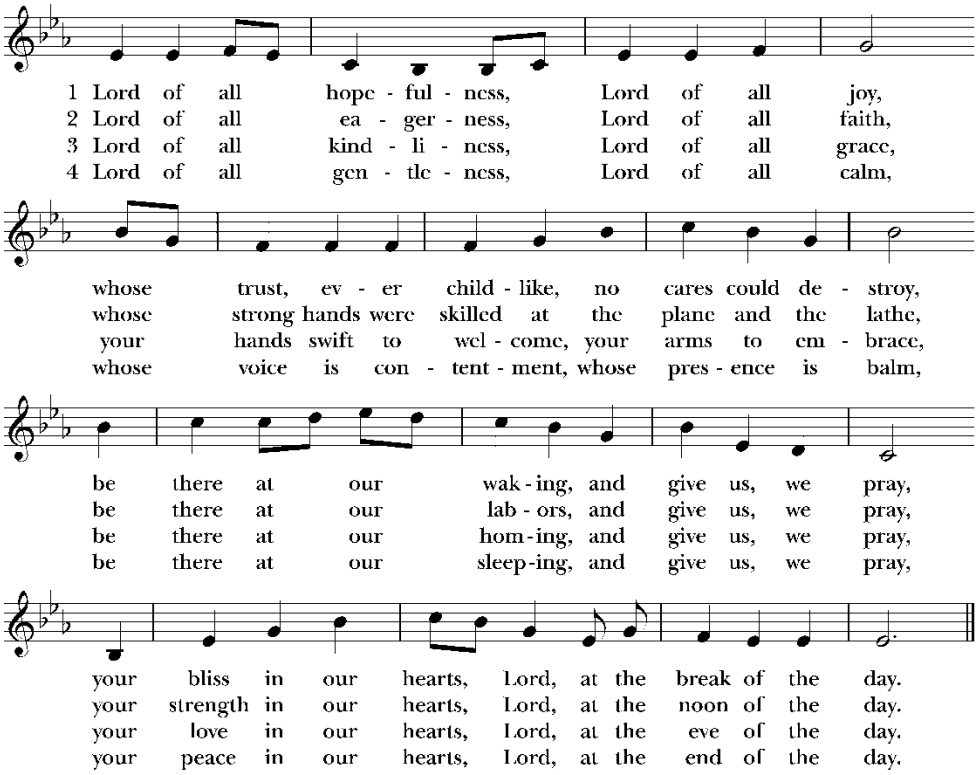
The Anthems

Presider 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.

Hymn Lord of All Hopefulness



Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*,1927; harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

The Collect

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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 Susan, 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.**

Be seated

First Reading — Isaiah 61:1-3

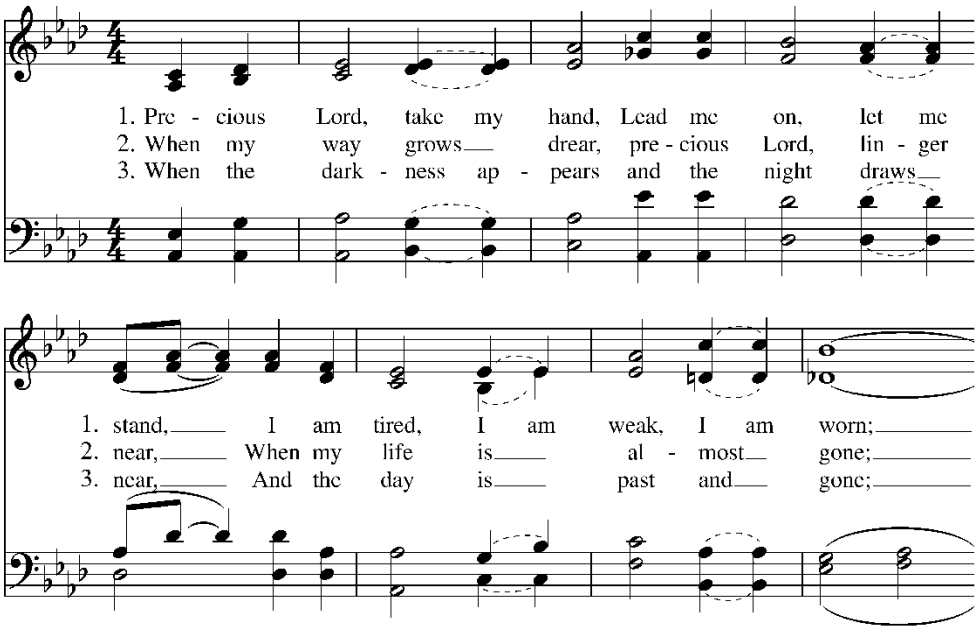
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

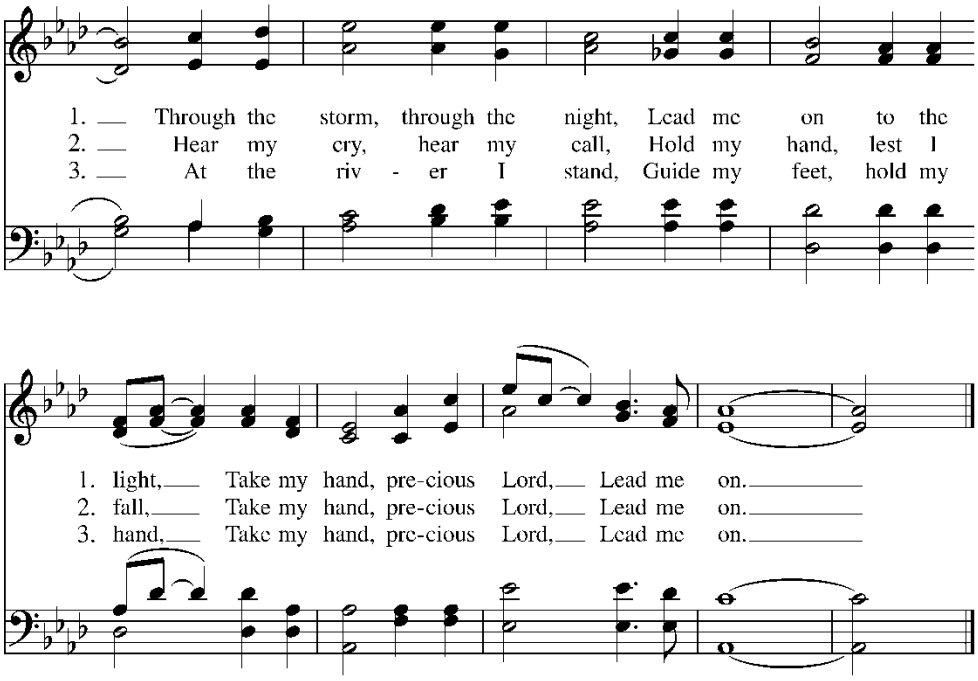
61 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
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.**

Stand as you are able

Hymn Take My Hand, Precious Lord





Words: Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993). Music: Thomas A. Dorsey; arrs. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Words and Music: Copyright © 1940 Unichappell Music, Inc. Copyright Renewed. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

The Gospel — John 10:11-16

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 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. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand
does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as
the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Be seated

Homily

Eulogies

Peter Wade
Jeptha Wade
Nicholas Wiedenhoeft

Announcements

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

The Lord's Prayer *in unison*

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.

Prayers of the People

For our sister Susan 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 Susan, 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.

The Celebrant concludes with one of the following or some other prayer

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

Meditation Amazing Grace **The St. John's Madrigal Singers**

The Commendation

Presider Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

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

Presider You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all;
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.

Presider Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Susan.
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.
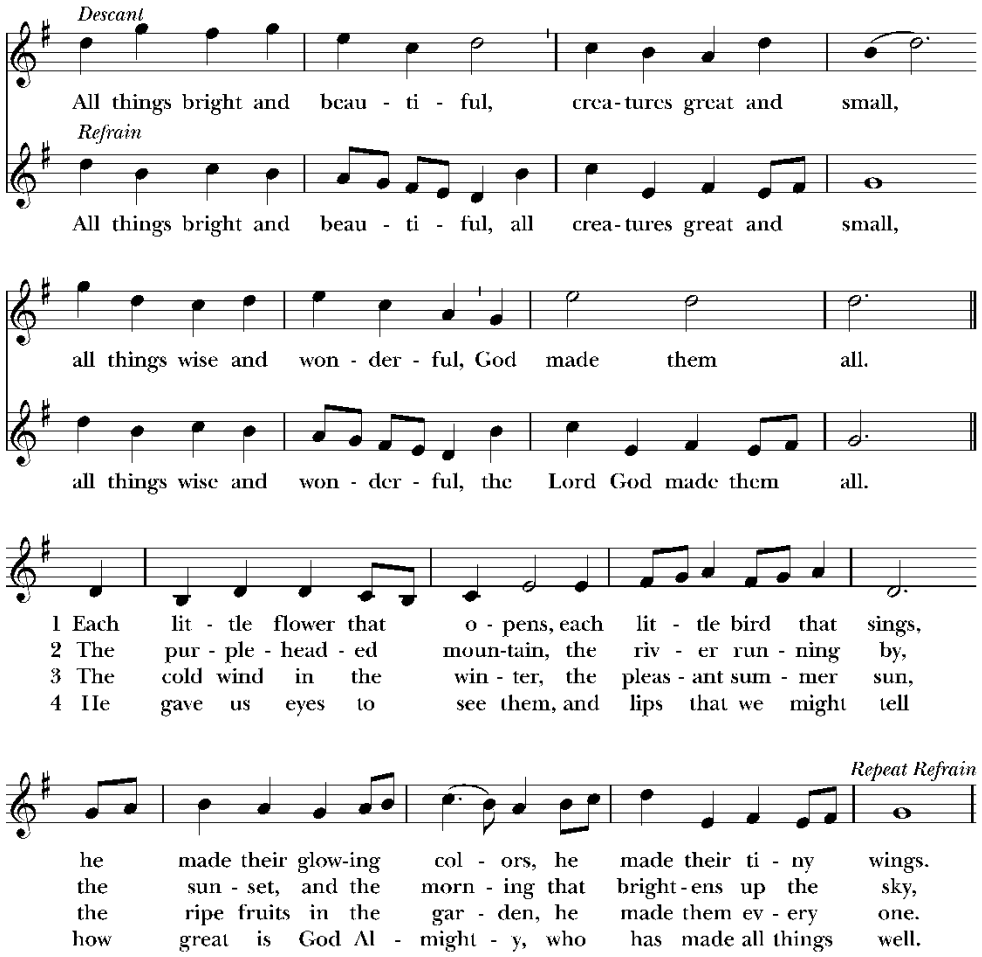
People **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Please remain in place until the hymn is completed. After the hymn, you are invited to meet the family in the Memorial Garden for a brief committal service.

Sending Forth All Things Bright and Beautiful



Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895). Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958), desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc. Descant, Copyright © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

The Committal

Presider Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

He who raised Jesus from the dead
will also give new life to our mortal bodies
through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Susan, and we commit her ashes to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her and give her peace. ***Amen.***

Presider Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord;
People **And let light perpetual shine upon her.**

May her soul, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ***Amen.***

The Presider dismisses the people with these words
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia**.
Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**



St. John's Episcopal Church

Liturgical Ministers

Presider for the Burial Office ..... **The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas**

Ushers ..... **Addison and Jody Hall**

Crucifer, Intercessor ..... **Sue Craft**

Lector ..... **Matthew Wiedenhoeft**

Organist, Pianist ..... **Duane Nyman**

The St. John's Madrigal Singers ..... **Julia Meservey, Director**

Permissions and Acknowledgements

- All other service music and hymnody printed with permission from *RiteSong*.
- *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979
- *The Holy Bible*, The New Revised Standard Edition

Please join us for a reception at Wicked Good Café (inside Elmer's, 396 Main Street).

Obituary

Susan Wade died Dec. 1 at her Ashfield home with her sons at her side.

At the time, her husband, Bill Scaife, was being treated for pneumonia in a local hospital.

Cause of death was vulvar cancer, a diagnosis she wrote about unflinchingly in the New England Journal of Medicine online called "My Experience in a Clinical Trial for a Rare Gynecologic Cancer," which was published July 25, 2023.

She wrote the piece at the request of her oncologist.

During the treatment, she rented an apartment near MassGeneral Hospital in Boston.

"At the beginning of the treatment, I was able to make this walk in about 15 minutes," she wrote of the nearly eight-week regimen. "By the end of the treatment, the walk took 45 minutes. Still, throughout these arduous weeks of radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy, I could feel that the tumor was shrinking, and I was extremely optimistic about the efficacy of the treatment."

By November 2022, though, she suspected that something wasn't right.

"In mid-December 2022, I met with my oncology team to discuss treatment options," she wrote in the Journal. "The choices were stark."

While Wade was the one subject in the study for whom the treatment did not work, "I do not regret my decision to join the study," she wrote.

Susan Wade taught at Keene State College, Keene, NH, for 14 years, retiring in June 2024. She was accorded the title Keene State College History Professor Emerita.

She enjoyed her work at Keene State College. Straightforward, kind and humble, she connected easily with her students.

"She was highly regarded as a prolific scholar of international repute in her field of early-to-central medieval cultural history, monasticism, gender and sexuality," Melinda Treadwell, president of Keene State College, wrote in an email to the college community.

Treadwell also described Wade as "student-centered, rigorous, supportive and masterful."

At Keene State College, she served as director of the Morris-August Honors Program, chair of the history department and chair of the sabbatical committee, as well as a longtime member of the Honors Council.

Susan Wade was born Aug. 25, 1959, in Libertyville, Ill., the daughter of Ann G. Schmler and Gilbert Wiedenhoeft.

She grew up in Evansville, WI, and graduated from a progressive high school in Madison, WI.

She graduated from Macalester College in Saint Paul, MN., with a Bachelor of Arts in art history.

She then worked as a graphic designer in Boston.

She married Randall Wade, and the couple moved to Sheffield, England, where their son, Peter G. Wade, was born. While there, Susan Wade continued working in graphic design.

They later moved to Westchester County, N.Y., where their son, Jeptha H. Wade, was born. While there, Susan Wade went to graduate school at New York University, where she earned a Ph.D. in medieval history. Her 2007 dissertation was called "Miraculous seeing and monastic identity: Miracles of the visual from the monasteries of Lobbes and Nivelles."

In 2007, the Wades moved to Ashfield. Susan began working as an adjunct at Keene State College in 2010. That year their 25-year marriage ended in divorce.

After the divorce, Bill Scaife responded to Susan's post at match.com. The two discovered they had a mutual friend and met for coffee at a coffee shop. They were married Oct. 15, 2011, at her Ashfield home. The Rev. Catherine Munz officiated.

The two spent time on Little Deer Isle in Maine, where they bought a second home.

In addition to her parents, husband and two sons, she leaves two brothers, Matthew Wiedenhoeft (Jane) of Green Bay, Nicholas Wiedenhoeft (Jenny); a sister, Fran Wiedenhoeft; nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will take place in the spring at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield and at St. Brendan the Navigator on Deer Isle.