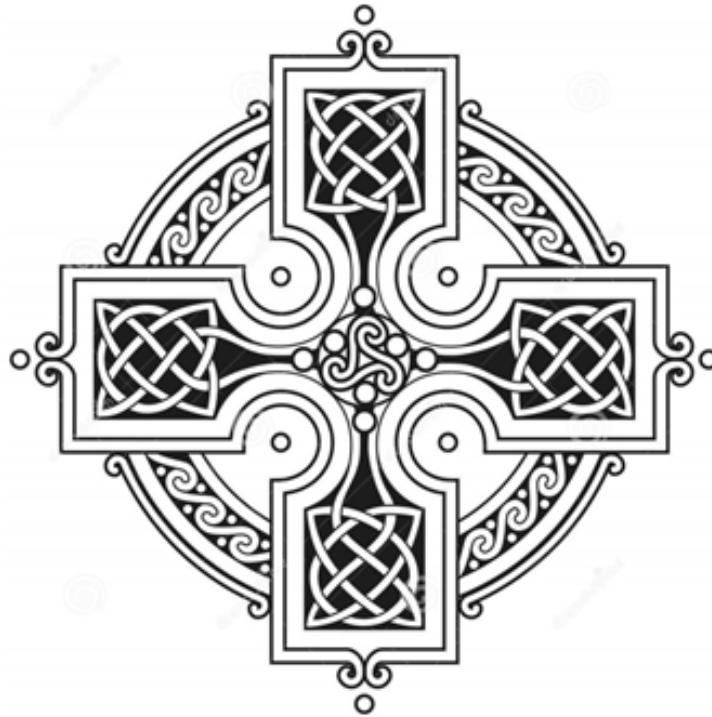


A Celebration of the Life of
Alexander “Sandy” Ferguson Blair, Jr.

August 15, 1945 - November 16, 2025



June 6, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Celebrant & Preacher
The Rev. Lauren R. Holder



**St. Martin's
in-the-Field**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Serving Severna Park since 1955

Welcome to St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church

*Our worship services are taken from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), The Hymnal 1982 (H) and Lift Every Voice and Sing II (L). The Lesson and Gospel texts come from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, unless otherwise noted. We invite you to participate fully in our worship service, by both singing joyfully and with spoken responses which appear in **bold**. This service may be livestreamed.*

THE LITURGY OF THE RESURRECTION, RITE II FOR ALEXANDER "SANDY" FERGUSON BLAIR, JR.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING 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 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.

COLLECT

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 Sandy. 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.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-3

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 (King James Version)

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
- ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.**
- ³ He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.**
- ⁴ 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.**
- ⁴ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**
- ⁵ 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 Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

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

HOMILY

The Rev. Lauren R. Holder

THE APOSTLES CREED

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 brother Sandy, 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 Sandy, 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; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Sandy, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **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 Sandy. 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 COMMITTAL

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. He who raised Jesus Christ 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.

While earth is cast on upon the ashes, the Celebrant says these words

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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

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.

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. And this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Donations may be made in Sandy's name to the
St. Martin's-in-the-Field Memorial Garden or the USO.*

**Everyone is most welcome for a reception at the family home,
356 S Putney Way, Severna Park.**

"You can shed tears that he is gone, or you can smile because he has lived.

*You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see him,
or you can be full of the love that you shared."*

- David Harkins

