

# *A Celebration of Life*

*for*

# *Monica Elaine Coleman*

*Sunrise*  
*March 24, 1970*

*Sunset*  
*April 10, 2021*



**Saturday, May 22, 2021**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**11040 Baltimore Avenue**  
**Beltsville, Maryland 20705**

**The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Concelebrant**  
**The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Concelebrant**

# *Obituary for Monica Elaine Coleman*

Sunrise March 24, 1970 ~ Sunset April 10, 2021

**Monica Elaine Coleman** was born on March 24, 1970, in Raleigh, North Carolina, to mother Nydia Coleman of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, and Jimmy Coleman of Raleigh, North Carolina. Monica lived for a short period in Raleigh but became a lifelong resident of the DMV area. In 1988, she graduated from the Calvin Coolidge High School and then received her Bachelors in Early Childhood Education from the University of the District of Columbia in 2007.

Monica was known for her gift of generosity and affinity for young children and elders. Her connection with them was natural, almost effortless. She worked at the YMCA of Silver Spring for 21 years, and as a member of St. John's Episcopal Church of Beltsville, MD, she also worked in the church nursery. She spent much of her time as a dedicated and driven educator devoted to children and caring for her family. One of her favorite interests was traveling to and enjoying jazz festivals with her best friend, Gayle Hall-Smith.

Monica was called home on April 10, 2021. She was preceded in death by her father, Jimmy Coleman, Sr., and her grandmother Veronica Malone. She was a loving daughter, sister, and friend who will be missed dearly by all the lives she touched. She is survived by her mother, Nydia Coleman; her siblings Latishia Coleman, Lamont Gill, Kionna Coleman, Jimmy Coleman, Jr., and Jenise Jefferies; her cousins Athalie, Alicia (Suzie), Denise, Durita (Ricky), and Ayana Malone, Zsakea Walker, Halim Scatliffe, Rehenia Brummell, Audrey Malone, Sandra Huff, Chenise Phillip, LaKeisha Wade-Malone, and Lakoi Malone; her aunts, Gwendolyn and Dorita Malone, Clarice Perry, and her uncle Hewitt Malone. Many friends, co-workers, and other family members were too numerous to mention, but she loved all with her whole heart. Her kindness and sweet nature will be missed.



# Order of Service

## Prelude

Selected

With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the ashes of our sister Monica for burial. Let us pray with confidence to God, the Giver of life, that he will raise her to perfection in the company of the saints.

*Silence may be kept; after which the Celebrant says*

Deliver your servant, Monica, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set her free from every bond; that she may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Burial Anthems

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though she die.  
And everyone who has life,  
and has committed herself to me in faith,  
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last she 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 herself,  
and none becomes her own master when she 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.

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain* *It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

2 And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
“Even so” it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

### **The Collect**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* 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 Monica, 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. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Monica’s family and friends in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Liturgy of the Word**

*The people sit.*

**The First Lesson** Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 Ms. Gwendolyn Malone, Aunt

Reader: A Reading from Lamentations

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 121** *read in unison*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \***  
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, \***  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved \***  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \***  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; \***  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \***  
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \***  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \***  
from this time forth for evermore.

**The Second Lesson**      1 John 3:1-2

Ms. Gwendolyn Malone, Aunt

*Reader:* A Reading from the First Letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Hymn** Children of the Heavenly Father

LEVAS 213

- 1 Children of the heav'ly Father, Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven, Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish, In His holy courts they flourish;  
From all evil things He spares them, In His mighty arms He bears them.

## The Gospel

John 14:1-6

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

Jesus said, “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.”

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

**Hymn**   Children of the Heavenly Father

LEVAS 213

3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He sheweth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

*The people sit.*

## Tribute

Ms. Ayana Malone, Cousin

## Pastoral Reflection

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant  
Rector, St. John’s Episcopal Church

**Hymn**   How Great Thou Art

LEVAS 60

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed.

*Refrain*   *Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee;*  
*How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*  
*Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee;*  
*How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

2 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God how great thou art. *Refrain*

## The Homily

The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas  
Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at  
Union Theological Seminary

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world;  
Red and yellow, black and white,  
They are precious in His sight,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

**Apostles' Creed**

*Please stand as you are able.*

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.**

*The people remain standing.*

**Prayers of the People**

For our sister Monica, 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 Monica, 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 Monica 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.**

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

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Monica, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her 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.**

## Peace

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

*People*      **And also with you.**

## Welcome and Announcements

### Holy Communion

#### Musical Selection

"Whispering Hope"

Septimus Winner

Ms. Velma Richardson, Soprano

Soft as the voice of an angel, Breathing a lesson unheard  
Hope with a gentle persuasion, Whispers a comforting word  
Wait, till the darkness is over, Wait, till the tempest is done  
Hope, for the sunshine tomorrow, After the darkness is gone

*Whispering hope; Oh how welcome Thy voice  
Making my heart; In its sorrow rejoice*

If in the dusk of the twilight, Dimmed be the region afar  
Will not the deepening darkness, Brighten the glittering star  
Then when the night is upon us, Why should the heart sink away  
When the dark midnight is over, Watch for the breaking of day

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Hymn** Now Thank We All Our God

1982 Hymnal 397

- 1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God, through all our life be near us!  
With ever-joyful hearts, and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer B

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*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**

S-130

**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 remain standing. Then the Celebrant continues saying*

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 Monica 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant then continues*

And now as our Savior, Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The people sit.*

### **Communion of the People**

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion at the time of distribution.*

1 Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry;  
While on others thou art calling, Do not pass me by.

*Refrain* *Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry;*  
*While on others thou art calling, Do not pass me by.*

2 Trusting only in thy merit, Would I seek thy face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, Save me by thy grace. *Refrain*

3 Thou the spring of all my comfort, More than life to me,  
Whom have I on earth beside thee? Whom in heav'n but thee? *Refrain*

**Post Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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 unto 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**

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

*The Celebrant then says*

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

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

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

## Recessional Hymn When We All Get to Heaven

LEVAS 20

1 Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace;  
In the mansion bright and blessed, He'll prepare for us a place.

*Refrain* *When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!*  
*When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory.*

2 While we walk the pilgrim pathway, Clouds will overspread the sky;  
But when trav'ling days are over, Not a shadow, not a sigh. *Refrain*

## Postlude

Selected

## THOSE SERVING TODAY

Concelebrant:	The Reverend Joseph M. Constant
Concelebrant:	The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas
Organist and Choirmaster:	Patrick D. McCoy
Cantor:	Melissa Sites
Soloist:	Velma Richardson
Lay Eucharistic Minister:	Larry Walker
Lector:	Gwendolyn Malone
Tribute:	Ayana Malone
Media Technician:	Russell Williams
Greeters:	The Rev. Kim Hudson, Elsie E. Kirton, Pamela Bryant-Hollins, Beverley Badley, Laurel Hillocks, Darlene Jones, Ben Allen
Altar Guild:	Ned and Marylou Langston

## REMEMBRANCE

### **Ms. Monica, Nursery Coordinator**

St. John's was blessed to have Ms. Monica Coleman serve as our nursery coordinator for several years. On learning of her passing, one of our pre-school students told us "I know that Ms. Monica will be happy in heaven."

As anyone who has worked in a church nursery will tell you, it is a hard job. Infants and toddlers struggle to separate from their parents while the parents participate in worship. Through many tears and escape attempts, Ms. Monica welcomed every child with love, patience, and an appreciation of their God given value. All our nursery children were anxious to see Ms. Monica and play with the toys each Sunday. All our nursery parents trusted Ms. Monica to care for their children and knew that they would see a happy child when communion time approached. Saints like Ms. Monica who care for our youngest children provide such an important foundation for spiritual growth: before children know anything else, they know love.

Ms. Mary Abe  
Director of Sunday School  
St. John's Episcopal Church

†††



*Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. John 11:25*

## Acknowledgements

The Family wishes to express thanks for the many forms of support, comfort, and prayers to the following organizations:

- St. John's Episcopal Church, Beltsville, MD
- The neighborhood community, Colonial Village, Washington, DC
- The staff and parents at the YMCA Child Care Center, Silver Spring, MD

Our deep and abiding thanks also to the many friends and acquaintances for help in ways too numerous to count.

## Professional Services Entrusted to:

R. N. Horton Co. Morticians, Inc.,  
600 Kennedy St NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(202) 829-9000



The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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." This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that the one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland 20705  
Phone: 301-937-4292  
Office Email: [office@saintjohnsbeltsville.org](mailto:office@saintjohnsbeltsville.org)  
Rector: [jconstant@saintjohnsbeltsville.org](mailto:jconstant@saintjohnsbeltsville.org)  
Website: [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

