

The Church of the Ascension

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Fifth Avenue at Tenth Street

Incorporated October 1, 1827



Requiescat in pace

JANET CAROLYN FISHER

July 14, 1942 – October 1, 2026

24 October 2026

11:00 A.M.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Organ Prelude

Opening Anthems (*Please stand*) Prayer Book, page 491

Hymn 657 *Hyfrydol*

Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Janet. We thank you for giving her to us, her 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.

People *Amen.*

(The people may be seated.)

THE WORD OF GOD

A Reading from Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged 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 forever. 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. (25:6-9)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-11

(read in unison)

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
 you know my sitting down and my rising up;
 you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
 but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before *
 and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
 it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
 where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
 if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning *
 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me *
 and your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
 and the light around me turn to night,"
Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
 darkness and light to you are both alike.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

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. (8:14-19,34-35,37-39)

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 469

St. Helena

The Gospel

(All stand as able)

John 14:1-6

Reader 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."

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

Sermon **The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell**

The Apostles' Creed *(Standing)*

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

(All say together)

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

(Remaining standing)

For our sister Janet, 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 Janet 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.

Celebrant Father of all, we pray to you for Janet, 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.

People Amen.

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

Offertory Solo **Light of a Clear Blue Morning**
Dolly Parton (1946-2026)

The Great Thanksgiving **Eucharistic Prayer B (Alt)**
(The people stand while the offerings are presented)

Sursum corda **Hymnal, S-120**

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, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. [*a Proper Preface is sung*] 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 **Hymnal, S-125**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(The people stand or kneel, and the priest continues.)

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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,

Memorial Acclamation

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 [_____and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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 God, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Agnus Dei

Hymnal, S-163

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Communion of 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.

All are welcome at God's table. Please come forward as directed by the ushers. You are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

Hymn 664

Resignation

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

(All pray together)

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 ministers take their places at the body.)

Solo

“Going Home” (Largo) Symphony No. 9

Anton Dvorak (1841-1904)

Words: William Arms Fisher

Commendation

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.

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

Celebrant Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Janet. 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.

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Blessing

Celebrant The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

People Amen.

Hymn 208

Victory

Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia,
Alleluia

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia*

Postlude

*Please join us for a reception in the Parlor
following the service.*

Today's Service

Altar Guild Tom Rice, Candace Lombardi,
John Grimes

Ushers Steve Hubbard, Mike Surabian

Soloist Sarah Frei, Soprano

Readers Daniel Cole, Sibyl Piccone

Intercessor Peter Clark

Server Elizabeth Adams

Thurifer John Grimes

Crucifer Tom Rice

Torch Bearers Richard Mitchell, Jimmy Amodeo

Chalice Bearers Isabel Spencer, Candace Lombardi

Janet Carolyn Fisher

*Public Relations Officer, Economist, Photographer, Cousin, Friend, Parishioner
Child of God*

1942 - 2026

Janet was born on July 14, 1942, in the Bronx, New York to William Fisher and Ruth Mitchell. Her mother was an educator in the Bronx, N.Y. school system.

She went to grammar and high school in the Bronx. She went to Pace College full-time at night in New York City for a degree in Economics.

Janet worked at many companies during her life. The following is a partial list and her position at each:

- Seagram's: New York Product Sales
- American Express: Merchant Sales Territory Manager, New York District;
- Director Merchandise Sales, Corporate Headquarters, NYC.
- Baruch College, NYC: Administration Communications Manager
- Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY: Public Relations Officer
- Goldman Sachs, Economist

Janet joined the Church of the Ascension in May of 1982 and was involved in most every facet of parish life over the last 40 years. She served multiple terms on the vestry; was Director of the Altar Guild and also a Eucharistic visitor, lector, acolyte and healing prayer minister. She was a longtime member of the parish discernment committee, helping to shepherd a number of people on their journeys to ordained ministry. Always curious and eager to learn about her faith, she participated in Bible study and a variety of classes both at Ascension and around the Diocese. One of the communities that mourns her passing is an online Morning Prayer group based at St. James Church, Wilmington, NC, in which she participated faithfully.

Janet was an accomplished photographer and could often be found behind the lens at parish events or exploring New York with her camera in hand. She loved to sail and enjoyed travel, visiting many far-flung destinations.

She departed this life on Thursday, October 1, 2026, peacefully at Lenox Hill Hospital following a long struggle with cancer. She leaves to mourn: her sister Grace Bailey, her first cousin Leonard Mitchell & his wife Cheryl Middleton-Mitchell, D.D.S. and a host of devoted friends, who touched her life in their own special ways.

A memorial Eucharist for Janet will be held at the Church of the Ascension (Fifth Avenue and 10th St. in Manhattan) on Saturday, October 24 at 11 am, followed by a reception in her honor.

Her family thanks you for your prayers and kind wishes.

“May angels surround her, and saints welcome her in peace.”



The Church of the Ascension

in the City of New York
36 Fifth Avenue at 10th Street
Incorporated October 1, 1827
an Episcopal parish of the Diocese of New York

Parish Office & Mailing Address 12 West 11th St., NY, NY 10011
www.ascensionnyc.org (212) 254-8620 info@ascensionnyc.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sundays Holy Eucharist (Side Altar) 9 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist with Music (Church) 11 a.m.
 Livestream (ascensionnyc.org/webcasts)
 Sunday Meditation & Sacrament, 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Eucharist, 6:00 p.m.
Weeknight Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. (ascensionnyc.org/eveningprayer)

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell, *Rector*
The Rev. Edwin Chinery, *Associate Rector*
Yunjeong McSeol, *Intern*
Dr. Alexander Little, *Music Director*
The Rev. Deacon Br. Andrew Jones, OSF, *Parish Administrator*
Kelli Long, *Business Manager*
Sajia Choudhury, *Sr. Full Charge Bookkeeper*
Dwight Roberts, *Head Sexton*
Raydiant Blacknall, *Assistant Sexton*
Jamel Blacknall, *Part-time Sexton*

Vestry

Vin Knight, *Warden (Class of 27)*; David Cholcher, *Warden (Class of 28)*
Mary Gaillard, *Treasurer*; Eloise Williams, *Clerk*; Charles E. Schmidt, *Chancellor*
Class of 2027: Sabra Brock, Zachariah Hennessey, Richard Mitchell,
Class of 2028: John Grimes, Steve Hubbard, Tom Rice
Class of 2029: Dorothy DeCrescenzo, Ned Fitch, Matthew Snow, Michael Surabian



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