A Celebration of Life Service
Rose Marie Walter
May 24, 1934 – October 26, 2026



St. John's Episcopal Church

1676 S. Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33764
November 14, 2026
12:00 pm
The Rev. Alicia Gomes
The Rev. Anne Harman

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD:
RITE TWO

November 14, 2026
12:00 pm

THE ENTRANCE RITE *(Stand)*

(spoken in procession)

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though they die.
And everyone who has life, and has committed themselves 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 themselves
and none becomes their own master when they die.
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.

Welcome

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 Rose Marie 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.**

How Great Thou Art Carl G. Boberg and R.J. Hughes

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 power 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.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain*

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain*

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 then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" *Refrain*

The Liturgy of the Word *(Sit)*

The First Lesson: Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 Reader: Jan Davis

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.
The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 23 (Unison)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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

Reader: John Fleming

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn: "On Eagles Wings" (Psalm 91) Michael Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: "And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand."

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge
with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain*

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (14:1-3) (*Stand)*
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.

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

(Please be seated)

Sermon The Rev. Whitney Burton

The Apostles' Creed (*Stand)*

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

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 Prayers Reader: Marlene Eichelberger

Celebrant: For our sister Rose Marie, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Reader: Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Rose Marie and dry the tears of those who weep.
People: **Hear us, Lord**.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.
People: **Hear us, Lord**.

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.
People: **Hear us, Lord.**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.
People: **Hear us, Lord**.

Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.
People: **Hear us, Lord.**

She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.
People: **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.
People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Celebrant: Father of all, we pray to you for Rose Marie 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.**

The Peace

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

The Ministers and People may greet one another.

The Offertory (Please stand while bread & wine come forward, then sit)

Offertory Anthem: "You Are Mine" David Haas

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B (Stand)*

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: S125 - Holy, Holy, Holy **Richard Proulx**

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.

Celebrant: 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 St. John 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 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**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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. Silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem*:* S164 Agnus Dei **Richard Proulx**
Jesus, Lamb of God:
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace,
give us your peace.

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

The Communion *(Sit or kneel)*

All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.
(We invite all to come the Lord's Table for communion or for a blessing. For a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer a blessing prayer. To receive the bread, please hold out your hands. If intincting after receiving the bread, please hand the bread to the chalice bearer. If you wish to sip the wine, please use your hands to guide the chalice to your lips.)

Communion Hymn: Blue Hymnal #335 "I am the bread of life"
Suzanne Toolan

Post-communion Prayer (*Kneel or stand)*

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.

Reflection: (*Sit)* The Rev. Kathleen Walter
Michelle Boone

"Be Not Afraid" **Bob Dufford, S.J.**

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands, and they will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live ***Refrain***

***Refrain*: Be not afraid. I go before you always.**
Come follow me and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters, in the sea you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.

If you stand before the pow'r of hell, and death is at your side,
Know that I am with you through it all. *Refrain*

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked ones insult and hate you all because of me,
Blessed, blessed are you! *Refrain*

The Commendation *(Sit)*

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

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Rose Marie. 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.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

Great is Thy Faithfulness (Stand) Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. *Refrain*



Clergy

The Rev. Alicia Gomes
The Rev. Anne Harman
The Rev. Whitney Burton
The Rev. Deacon Kevin Mort

Service participants

Organist/Choir Director: James May
Cantor: Cindy Huffman
Flautist: Becca Bass
Ushers: Molly Sperandio, Marlene Eichelberger, Marti Moore
Acolyte: Ellen Seto
Element Bearers: Gerry and Kristen Boone
Readers: John Fleming, Jan Davis, Marlene Eichelberger
Media Ministry: Ron Joy
Reception: Sallie Devine, Marti Moore, Jan Davis, Shannon Nugent

The family invites everyone to the Parish Hall for a reception immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to St. John's.



I Am Standing Upon The Seashore

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each
other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone"

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her
destined port.

Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.
And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,"
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

And that is dying...

- Henry Van Dyke

The Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf, Bishop

St. John's Mission Statement:
To love, to serve, to grow in Christ

Church Staff

Priest in Charge	The Rev. Alicia Gomes
Deacon	The Rev. Kevin Mort
Office Administrator	Jan Davis
Music Director	Jim May
Sexton	Thomas Watts

Vestry

Marlene Eichelberger	Sr. Warden
Marti Moore	Jr. Warden
Amy DuPuis	Treasurer
Diane Pfaus	Outreach
Ellen Seto	Worship
Deb Hladky	Stewardship