



A Celebration of the Resurrection  
for the life of Valerie Anne McMullan

*March 29, 1948 – May 12, 2025*

Saturday, June 14, 2025  
11 am  
Church of the Holy Comforter, Episcopal  
543 Beulah Road NE  
Vienna, VA 22180



## Prelude

### Opening Sentences

*All stand as the opening sentences are sung.*

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

### Welcome

The Rev. Jon C. Strand

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 Valerie. 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. *Amen.*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with  
Valerie's family in their grief, especially, Denis; Laura and Michael; Marie and Steve; and  
Kaitlin and Mitchell; Ethan, Madelyn, Cora, and Degan; Gwendolyn; and Chris; and others  
who are here or with us in spirit. 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.*

### Opening Hymn #8 *Morning Has Broken*

*Bunessan*

### The Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading:** Ruth 1:16-17

Reader: Madelyn Stevenson

But Ruth said,  
“Do not press me to leave you,  
to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people  
and your God my God.  
<sup>17</sup>Where you die, I will die,  
and there will I be buried.  
May the Lord do thus to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

**Reader:** *The Word of the Lord.* **Response:** *Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 23** *Dominus regit me*

David Boulware-Kelley

*The cantor sings the refrain, which is then repeated by all. Thereafter, the cantor sings the verses, and all join on the refrain, as indicated.*



- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. [Ref.]
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. [Ref.]

**Second Reading:** Phillipians 4:4-9

Reader: Kaitlin Crane

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace

of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Reader:** *The Word of the Lord.* **Response:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Sequence Hymn #488 (Blue Hymnal):** *Be Thou My Vision*

*Slane*

**The Gospel: Luke 10:38-42**

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

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

**Remembrances**

Marie Wimmer, Laura Stevenson, Denis McMullan

**The Homily**

The Rev. Jon Strand

**The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

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**

Dear Friends: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Let us pray, then, for our sister Valerie, that she may rest from her labors, and enter into the light of God’s eternal sabbath rest.

Receive, O Lord, your servant, for she returns to you.  
*Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister Valerie.*

Wash her in the holy font of everlasting life, and clothe her in her heavenly garment.  
*Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister Valerie.*

May she hear your words of invitation, “Come, you blessed of my Father.”  
*Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister Valerie.*

May she gaze upon you, Lord, face to face, and taste the blessedness of perfect rest.  
*Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister Valerie.*

May angels surround her, and saints welcome her in peace.  
*Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our sister Valerie.*

*The Officiant concludes*

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord, Receive Valerie into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place, and we also remember James, her father, Phedora, her mother; and Florence, her step-mother. Let Valerie’s heart and soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**

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

### **Announcements**

### **The Offertory**

**Offertory Solo** *You Raise Me Up*

*Rolf Lovland and Brendan Graham*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*As Jesus welcomed all to the table, all who wish to receive Christ's offering of love to us are welcome. If you need gluten-free bread, please ask. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your hands on your chest to receive a blessing.*

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 him thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where 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 #858 (Green Hymnal)

*Land of Rest*

***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.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; (the presider continues...) Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

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.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Celebrant        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.

**Communion Hymns: #711 (Blue Hymnal):** *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*  
**#810 (Green Hymnal):** *You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagle's Wings)*  
*(Soprano solo on verses, congregation sing refrain)*

### **The Postcommunion Prayer**

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 Commendation** (congregation please join in italicized words)

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, Valerie. 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 and Dismissal**

**Procession Out #812 (Green Hymnal):** *I, The Lord of Sea and Sky*

The service continues with the interment in the Columbarium with the McMullan family, all other friends and community please join us in the Community Hall.

Please join us for a lunch reception and further remembrances in our Community Hall, which is at the end of the narthex on the left.

**Participants**

The Rev. Jon C. Strand, Rector, officiant and preaching

The Rev. Ann Gillespie, presiding at the Eucharist

The Rev. Jackie Thomson, gospel and prayers

David Boulware-Kelley, Minister of Music, organ and piano

Claudia Barbish, soprano

Tabitha Shimooka, psalm cantor

Members of the Holy Comforter Youth, choir

Lolly Mixer, Altar Guild

Kim Brailey, Verger

Randy McGuire, A/V Support

ECW, Reception

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Contributions in memory of, or thanksgiving for Valerie may be made to: The Alzheimer's Association. [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

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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 one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

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"On Grief" by John O Donahue

When you lose someone you love,  
Your life becomes strange,  
The ground beneath you becomes fragile,  
Your thoughts make your eyes unsure;  
And some dead echo drags your voice down  
Where words have no confidence  
Your heart has grown heavy with loss;  
And though this loss has wounded others too,  
No one knows what has been taken from you  
When the silence of absence deepens.

Flickers of guilt kindle regret  
For all that was left unsaid or undone.

There are days when you wake up happy;  
Again inside the fullness of life,  
Until the moment breaks  
And you are thrown back  
Onto the black tide of loss.  
Days when you have your heart back,  
You are able to function well  
Until in the middle of work or encounter,  
Suddenly with no warning,  
You are ambushed by grief.

It becomes hard to trust yourself.  
All you can depend on now is that  
Sorrow will remain faithful to itself.  
More than you, it knows its way  
And will find the right time  
To pull and pull the rope of grief

Until that coiled hill of tears  
Has reduced to its last drop.

Gradually, you will learn acquaintance  
With the invisible form of your departed;  
And when the work of grief is done,  
The wound of loss will heal  
And you will have learned  
To wean your eyes  
From that gap in the air  
And be able to enter the hearth  
In your soul where your loved one  
Has awaited your return  
All the time.



On May 12, 2025, Valerie Anne McMullan passed away peacefully at Inova Fairfax Hospital after a short illness. Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, she was the beloved daughter of James Stevenson and Phedora Lupton and sister to Chris Stevenson. After her mother's passing, the family moved to Ballyclare, where her father married her stepmother, Florence.

Valerie and her brother Chris graduated from Ballyclare High School. She traveled to Flint, Michigan, where she attended and graduated from Redford High School as a student exchange student while living with the Chapel family.

She returned to Northern Ireland, where she met and married Denis McMullan, an Engineering graduate from Queen's University of Belfast, in 1969. The couple moved to Scotland, where they lived and worked for 7 years, during which time their first daughter, Laura, was born. In 1976, they immigrated to the USA, where their second daughter, Marie, was born. They lived in Falls Church before moving to Vienna in 1992. In 2000, they joined the Church of the Holy Comforter and have been faithful and active members ever since. Holy Comforter has been like a second family to both Denis and Valerie.

Valerie worked for McMullan and Associates for 29 years. She was a member of a bowling league for 30 years. Valerie enjoyed volunteering at Pennywise, the church's thrift store, served on the Altar Guild, and spent many happy days in her garden. Valerie had a ready smile and welcome for everyone she met. She was loved by everyone who met her and was always willing to help others.

She is survived by her husband, Denis McMullan; daughters, Laura Stevenson with husband Michael and Marie Wimmer; with husband Steve and five grandchildren, Kaitlin with husband Mitchell, Ethan, Madelyn, Cora, and Degan; and one great-granddaughter, Gwendolyn, and brother Chris Stevenson.