

Memorial Service for Wells “Bill” Gordon Carswell

January 21, 1934 - June 13, 2025



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Saturday July 26, 2025, 10 a.m.

In Loving Memory of Wells “Bill” Carswell

Prelude music

Military Honors—USAF Honor Guard

Following Military Honors, all stand during the procession of the altar party to the front of the church as the Presider says:

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.

Presider addresses the gathered family and friends in welcome and sympathy then continues:

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you**

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider: O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our loved-one Bill Carswell. 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.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Bill and all of the Carswell family and Bill's 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.**

(Please be seated for the readings)

First Reading : Wisdom 3: 1-5,9

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; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 23 - King James Version

Janet Privas

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

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.

Second Reading: The Book of Revelation (21:1-7)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring. Those who emerge victorious will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my sons and daughters.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn: (Hymnal 1982 # 671) **Amazing Grace sung by Wanda Whyte**

The Gospel (John 10:11-16) *(please stand as you are able)*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily—Rev. Allison / Eulogy—William Carswell

The Apostles' Creed *(please stand as you are able)*

Leader: Please join in saying the Apostles' Creed together:

All: 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:

Leader: For our beloved Bill let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Leader: Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Bill 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.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to Bill eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring Bill to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Bill was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give to him fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows of Bill's death, let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Hear us, Lord.

Presider: Father of all, we pray to you for Bill and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

(The People offer each other a sign of peace (namaste, peace sign, hugs, handshakes...))

The Offertory:

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The Holy Eucharist *(please stand as you are able)*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider 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 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Presider and People

**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 stand, sit, or kneel. Then the Presider continues)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith: *(All)*

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues:

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 forever. **AMEN.**

Presider: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say the Lord's Prayer:

**All: 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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.)

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Presider 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, and with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited and welcome to receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. If you prefer to intinct/dip your bread into the wine please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to sip the wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you are not ready to receive the bread and wine with us, you may come forward, cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing from the priest instead.

Communion Music: *(insert, p.11)* ***It Is Well With My Soul - Sung by Wanda Whyte***

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray.

All 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 & Committal:

(The Presider, other ministers and immediate family take their places near the urn, the urn is then processed to the Columbarium and placed in the niche)

Presider Jesus said, "Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me."

Presider: He who raised Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit. Lord, 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. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

(The urn is placed in its niche)

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Bill, and we commit his earthly remains to their resting place; 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 Deacon then says

Deacon: We are Easter and Resurrection people and so we exclaim with joy: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Deacon: Because Christ has risen and assures us that where he is, we will be also, let us go forth rejoicing in the name of the Lord that Bill is safe in God's care.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Music

Please join us for a reception in the Education Building following the service.

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my
 2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should
 3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be

1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;
 2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,
 3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—
 4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
 2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
 3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
 4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 2. tate, And has shed His own blood for my soul.
 3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 4. scend, "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

It is well ————— It is well with my soul, with my

soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

