

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF JOHN RANDAL CLOUD

January 22, 1949 - May 17, 2021



May 29, 2021
2:00 p.m.

The Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle, IX Bishop of Texas
The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector
The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Curate
The Reverend Canon Dr. Henry L. Atkins, Jr., Theologian in Residence

Collin Boothby, Organist and Choirmaster

***Making God's Presence Real
By Sharing Christ's Life-Changing Love***

WELCOME TO TRINITY CHURCH

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church! Thank you for worshipping with us today. We follow the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) to guide our worship. In this leaflet, you'll find everything you need to follow along printed.

Whether you've been attending Trinity your whole life or this is your first time here, we invite you to participate in the service as fully as you feel comfortable doing.

If you're looking for a new church home, know that the Trinity family welcomes you. We would also appreciate your filling out a virtual visitors card, which can be accessed at this link:

<https://forms.gle/dvuRW2FUDny2hpRz5>

For more information, please visit our website:

www.trinitymidtown.org

For questions about how to connect with us, please email

Collin Boothby, Associate for Connections Ministries at:

connections@trinitymidtown.org



VESTRY

Amy Luke, *Senior Warden*

John Escoto, *Junior Warden*

Ben Blanding

Jim Castro

Norma Cooper

Terri DiRaddo

Andy Durham

Ann McCoy

Debbie Owens

David Theis

Michele White

Teddy Adams, *Chancellor*

Dana Gannon, *Assistant Chancellor*

Larry Laubach, *Treasurer*

Steve Lee, *Assistant Treasurer*

Ben Blanding, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Jim Castro, *Assistant Clerk of the Vestry*

Gayle Davies-Cooley, *Historian and Archivist*

Officiants

The Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle, IX Bishop of Texas
The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector
The Reverend Luz Cabrera Montes, Curate

Readers

The Reverend George McGavern
Ron Starbuck

Gospeller

The Reverend Francene Young

Verger

Alex Bruton

Acolytes

Samuel Romero-Atkins
Daniel Romero-Atkins
Ceci Bruton
John Bruton
Byron Walton
Jack Quander
Katie Quander
Alexander Sennewald
James Sennewald
Luke Junkunc
Katy Davidson

Livestream

Fabian Berrios
Thanh Montes

Thurifer

The Reverend Rhonda Rogers

Ushers

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Bob Davenport
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Altar Guild

Joanne Starbuck
Mark Goza

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Cover Photo

Elmer Romero

The Trinity Choir

Michael Alexander
Joshua Chavira
Errin Hatter
Andy Horton
John Merullo

Harrison G. Moore, IV
Catherine Reed
Tony Sessions
Victoria Varteressian

The High Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of the life of my husband, John Cloud, by Mary Cloud.

The Side Altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of John Cloud by Suresh Gali, Ramani Gali and Keshav Gali.

The Baptistry flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the life of John Cloud by Mark Goza and Joanne and Ron Starbuck

The Columbarium flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the life of John Cloud by his family.

THE BURIAL SERVICE

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, principalities, 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.

Family Members

Mary Cloud
Paula and Greg Taylor
Andrea and Don Shannon
Taylor and Brandon Becker
Shawn and Emma Wimmer
Katie and Keith Christensen
Kelley Shannon
Kyle and Codi Shannon
Emily Sumner
Kathy Wieboldt
Nancy Stem
Susan and Jason Hall
Ed and Lorna Schauseil

BURIAL OF THE DEAD
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

VOLUNTARY

Nimrod, from Enigma Variations

Edward Elgar

Liturgy of the Word

OPENING ANTHEMS

BCP, page 491

Celebrant I am the 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.
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.

HYMN 460

Please stand as able.
Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
(on next page)

Hyfrydol

1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the
 *2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the
 *5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the

1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the
 2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is
 3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the
 4 Lord of lords we own: Al - le - lu - ia! born of the
 5 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the

1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -
 5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our
 5 songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and
 5 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery

1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 5 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

A COLLECT FOR BURIAL

BCP, page 493

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 brother John. 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.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 25: 6-9

A Reading from Isaiah.

Reader: Ron Starbuck

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 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 READING

Romans 8: 14-19, 34-35, 37-39

A Reading from Romans.

Reader: The Reverend George McGavern

For 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.

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

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul;
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 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.

Please stand as able.

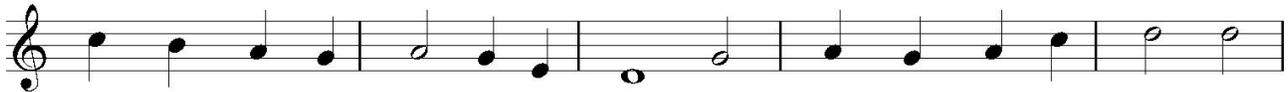
HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE 439

What wondrous love is this

Wondrous Love



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
 3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
 is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Please stand as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 10: 11-16

Gospeller: The Reverend Francene Young

Gospeller 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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

REMEMBRANCE

The Reverend George McGavern
Church of the Good Shepherd, Tomball

HOMILY

The Reverend Hannah E. Atkins Romero, Rector

Please stand as able.

APOSTLES' CREED

BCP, page 496

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP, page 497

Reader: The Rev. Luz Cabrera Montes, Curate

For our brother John, 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 John, 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 brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence.

Father of all, we pray to you for John 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.

People 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 in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

VIRTUAL OFFERING

Online Giving is available through AccessACS. Go to www.trinitymidtown.org and click the "Give" button on the top right, or click:

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=156477>

Texting. Send the message **heartofmidtown** to **73256**. The prompt will ask for a credit card number which can be kept on file.

OFFERTORY

O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings thou Lord of hosts
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter in to the courts of the Lord
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house
And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young
Even thy altars O Lord of hosts, my king and my God
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house
They will be always praising thee
The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us
Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us
O prosper thou our handy work, o prosper thou our handy work.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Please kneel or stand as able.

The celebrant 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:

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 God, now and for ever.

People AMEN.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, page 364

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
 sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

BCP, page 338

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

AGNUS DEI S163

Robert Powell

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION

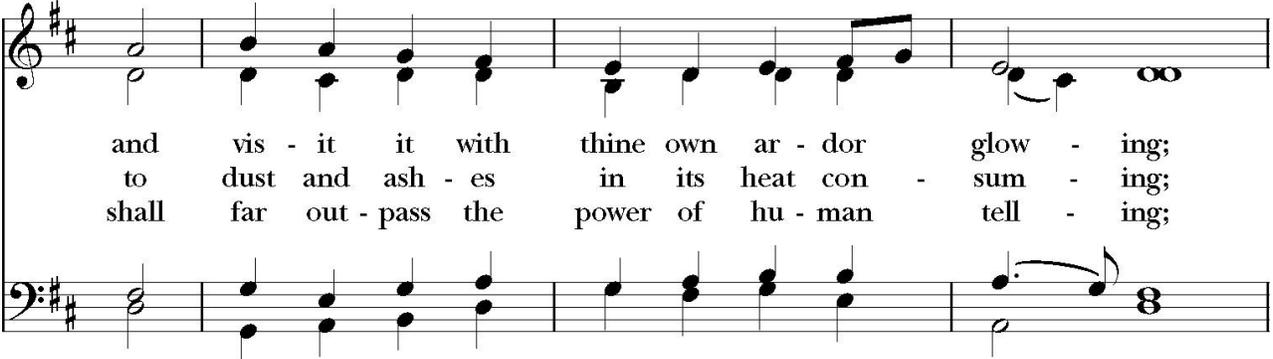
For the duration of the current pandemic we will offer communion in one kind, the bread only. The priest will bring communion to your seat.



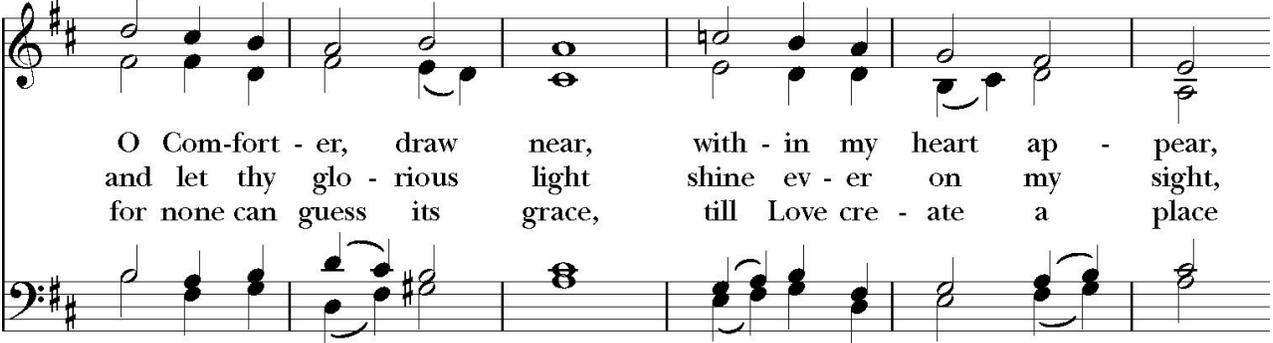
We offer a gluten-free bread option for those with dietary restrictions who wish to receive communion. To receive a gluten free wafer, please clasp your hands with palms facing each other when the priest administering the bread approaches you.



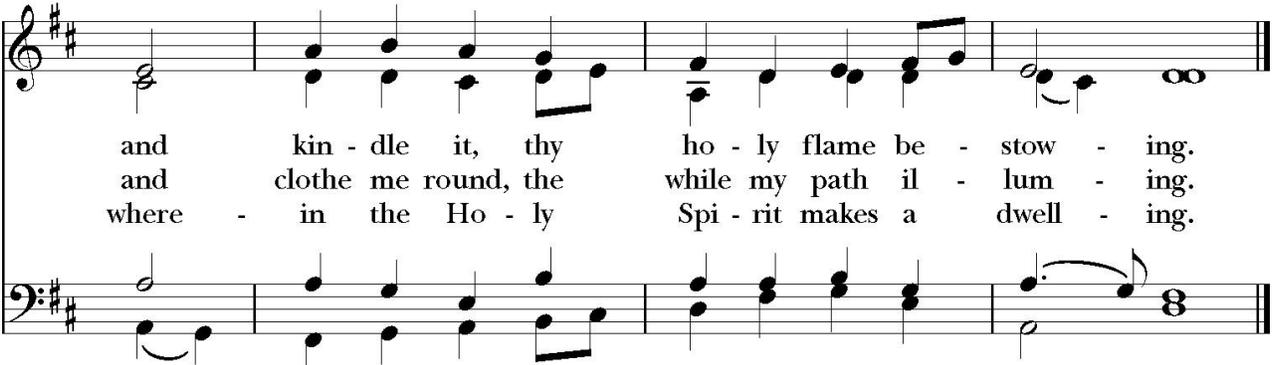
1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Please stand or kneel as able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, page 498

Officiant Let us pray.

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.

Please stand as able.

COMMENDATION

BCP, page 499

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; yea 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 John.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,

a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.

Receive him 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.**

BLESSING

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

People **Amen.**

HYMN 390

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
(on next page)*

Lobe den Herren

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

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

VOLUNTARY *Toccata from Symphony No. 5* Charles-Marie Widor

Ministers and family will recess during the Voluntary

The congregation is invited to a reception in Fellowship Hall following the service

Interment will immediately follow the service in the Columbarium, for extended family.

**Memorials honoring John may be made in his name to Trinity Episcopal Church, Houston
or to the Houston Zoo.**

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Tribute from a Friend of 60 Years **by Edward Schauseil**

When asked to say a few things about John, I was overwhelmed by memories going back 60 years.

This journey began back to the Fall of 1961 when we started our freshman year at Pershing Junior High. We both had a wry sense of humor and a curiosity of what made "things tick." We became good friends as a result and spent a lot of time together after school and over summer vacations, exploring the "world," at least as far as our bikes would take us. We dabbled in chemistry, a little astronomy, history, philosophy and allowed our imaginations free reign over possibilities of things yet to come. John tried to teach me chess and while I learned the basics, I never mastered the game theory like John.

We learned to drive together (driver's ed classes and then behind the wheel lessons), getting our driver's licenses before we left Pershing. The summer before starting Bellaire High School, John got a job delivering the morning Houston Post, and I followed along about a month later. It was a little tough getting up at 3:00 am every day (come rain, cold, and tropical storms), but it was well worth it, although it only lasted about a year and a half. After that we both worked at a Texaco service station (and later an Exxon station). Both were invaluable experiences and provided easy access to tools and equipment to keep our cars running (sometimes a bit of a challenge).

Our last year at Bellaire, we had an opportunity to attend an off-campus course in business computing (along with another friend; Vince Contorno). While the course turned out to be focused on business machines (and not computers), we did manage to convince the teacher (an IBM alum) to let us learn Fortran so we could practice programming on the IBM 1130. One of John's first efforts was a program to play blackjack...not an easy task, but it worked quite well and proved to be a turning point for John...he was hooked on programming.

We both started college at U of H, where John focused on programming (while I pursued engineering). After John married Pat and Paula was born, he started work as a computer operator at Exxon's downtown headquarters, working the graveyard shift. During his time there, John continued developing his programming skills (which were quite impressive), eventually learning basic machine code (upon which all programming code is based). John's inquisitive mind would not rest until he understood how a machine which only understood ones and zeros could be programmed to do so many amazing things.

Over the ensuing years, John and I might not see each other for long stretches, but when we get together, it was like no time had passed. At some point in the early '70's I realized John was not just a friend, but a true friend. By that I recall the definition of the difference between a friend and a true friend. A friend will bail you out of jail without hesitation, while a true friend will help you bury the body. While our friendship was never tested to that extent, there were a couple of occasions where John proved to be a true friend.

John was instrumental in helping my wife Lorna learn computer programming in the early '80's before we had a home PC. John's programming prowess was evident when he helped her with an assignment to right a short program using no more than ten lines. John showed her how it could be done in three, which stunned her instructor. At that point, Lorna was hooked on computers.

After John and Mary married, Lorna met John's parents and was quickly "adopted." We subsequently spent every Thanksgiving and Christmas as part of the extended Cloud family, as well Mary's family. All were truly memorable characters! Some of the most memorable times were spent at the Lodge at Hill Top Lakes where Earl and Marie lived at the time. We share in many of the highs and lows with the Cloud clan over the years.

As I sit here now, looking back over the past 60 years, I have tried to find those key parts of what set John apart, and there were many.

- John approached all strangers as friends he had not yet met.
- John was a great conversationalist, willing to talk on just about any subject, as well listen to what others had to say, without interruption, so everyone felt like an equal participant.
- John never judged others by their race, religion, background, or occupation, looking instead at the individual. He was truly interested in their background, experiences, and how they viewed life.
- John loved helping others in any way he could, whether it was helping with moving, finding a job, getting through a rough patch, or just being a shoulder to lean on.
- John loved children and was willing to listen intently when they would tell stories, play at the drop of a hat, and teach whenever the opportunity arose.
- John did not brag about any of his accomplishments.
- John rarely talked about religion. It was only after he and Mary got married that I began to understand his deep faith and interaction with Trinity.

Now that John has passed on, I begin to see more clearly who he was and how his faith played a deep role in his interactions with others he met over the years.

While I will miss our discussions on many different topics, I am fairly certain I will ask myself the same question many times when reading something we would have likely discussed; "what would John have thought about this?" His responses often provoked deeper introspection, regardless of the topic.

John Randal Cloud
January 22, 1949 - May 17, 2021

“Well, we didn’t see it coming...” Our beloved John Cloud peacefully entered God’s Heavenly Kingdom at 6:40 p.m., Monday, May 17, 2021. He was at home, where he wanted to be when the end came.

Many – maybe most—of his friends did not know that he had been battling a rare cancer of the esophagus since summer 2019. While his team of the very best doctors and researchers in the world at M.D. Anderson tried, at first to heal then at last to contain the cancer, in the end the aggressive disease overcame John’s earthly body. However, it did not overcome his sunny personality and the Light from within.

John Randal Cloud was born January 22, 1949, at St. Joseph’s Maternity Hospital in Houston to Earl James and Marie Homer Cloud. “Johnny,” as he was known to family even as an adult, grew up in the house still standing in Bellaire, near what is now Episcopal High School. He graduated from Bellaire High School (he would often say he had graduated from high school in a “small town”) and went on to study at the University of Houston. As a youngster, Johnny was both resourceful and quite mischievous. For example, he would gather all the discarded Christmas trees in the neighborhood and build a fortress to defend with his friends. When his prankish nature would surface, while hiding behind a neighbor’s bushes, he would throw out an old hub cap when a car came by, and yell “hub cap, hub cap” much to the dismay of the driver. He also used to torment his sister and her friends by throwing harmless grass snakes, which he loved to collect, off the roof. “John was just the cool-ist guy,” his sister’s friend said. “He never did anything bad; he just wanted to have fun.” His mother would often find a jar of insects – one time newly hatched spiders—in his room. As an adult, it would seem he was always doing something he wasn’t supposed to – at meetings, airports, restaurants, wherever-- much to the embarrassment of his wife Mary.

“He was always up for an adventure, or an experiment, or a new gadget, or just some plain mischief. He was just fun to be around,” a friend recalls.

John’s dad Earl instilled in his son a love of learning and an inquisitive nature by paying him ten cents a page to read the encyclopedia and by experimenting in the back yard with chemistry sets, while John learned the periodic table. His dad also shared a love of monster movies with his son, which John enjoyed all his adult life. As a young teen, he would take the bus from Bellaire to downtown Houston, take in a monster movie, buy a monster magazine/comic book, and devour a chili dog at James Coney Island. John’s love for chili dogs from James Coney Island continued through his adult life. He often shared “a dog and a chili pie” with his work colleagues, even into his retirement. As late as a month before his death, he had lunch at JCI with a former co-worker. (Note: In honor of John and his love for James Coney Island, his former work colleagues have arranged for JCI to serve at the reception following the service.)

John’s childhood memories also included going to Galveston with his parents every week-end to play on the beach (he described himself as a “water baby”) and then to take the ferry across to Bolivar to buy fresh crabmeat at Milt’s (now long-gone by one of the hurricanes.) In his adult life, John extended his love for the ocean by becoming a certified scuba diver and exploring the reefs in the Caribbean and by going on multiple cruises with Mary among the Islands.

As a teen, John worked various jobs to pay for gas, especially for his 1950’s model Nash Ambassador, in which he would pile his friends in the back to go to the drive-in movies.

He loved to tell tales of working at a small pharmacy in Bellaire at which he would make toasted cheese sandwiches for customers and where he developed his love for cheeseburgers and vanilla phosphates. John would also describe another teen-age job as "being in the oil business," i.e. pumping gas at a Bellaire gas station. His most memorable job in high school, though, was throwing a paper route for the Houston Post at 4:00 in the morning, then coming home in time to get ready for school. He and his life-long friend Ed Schauseil often would recount getting up at "dark thirty" to throw their respective routes and later, to go back and collect from their customers.

In 1968 John married his high school sweetheart Pat Hicks. His daughter Paula was born in 1969, when John was working as a computer operator at Exxon. Pat and John were together for about six years before they divorced.

Understanding and communicating with computers was something John could do – and did up until the time of his death – with excellence "non pareil." He knew several layers of computer languages, some of which are now archaic. A friend remembers taking a basic language programming class and having a homework assignment to complete a task in less than 10 lines of code. After experiencing frustration, she asked John for some insight about the assignment, and he sat down and wrote a program that used only three lines of code. "The instructor must have thought he had a genius student in his class," she recalls. "I had to admit to him that I did not really do this on my own but had a 'genius programmer's' help to figure it out."

On St. Patrick's Day 1990, John attended a St. Patrick's Festival at the now long-gone Bavarian Gardens in the Heights. The Festival was where John met Mary, who was also attending with a friend. His response to "Where did ya'll meet," however, was "Mary picked me up at a bar." Soon after their meeting, John invited Mary for dinner – and after that they became inseparable. In March 1992, Mary joined Trinity Church in a joint rededication of their confirmations. They were married at Trinity Church by The Reverend Stephen Bancroft on September 26, 1992.

John had a life-long love for wanting to know how things worked. His inquisitiveness would not let him rest until he "figured it out" and comprehended the issue. Consequently, he was knowledgeable about many subjects, and was able to discuss many different topics with people from a variety of backgrounds. For example, he attended almost all the scientific conferences for which his wife Mary coordinated the logistics. He would enjoy engaging scientific researchers with doctoral degrees in such esoteric areas as planetary dust, extinction of the dinosaurs, planetary formation, etc. He especially loved to engage the students who presented their research via poster presentation, and would ask them questions to help them be more articulate in presenting their research. He usually sought those students who did not have a lot of people showing interest in their posters.

After owning his own computer business for several years, John went to work as a contractor for Houston Lighting and Power in 1994. In 1998 he became a full-time employee working with human resources, payroll, and employee benefits. He liked to say that he had the "same office" but worked for different companies, as the name of his employer changed many times through various mergers and company changes. (The location of his office changed many times, as well.) It was also during this period that John "expanded the Casual Friday" dress code to include Hawaiian shirts, of which he had many beautiful patterns. (Most of his shirts did come from Hawaii, where he attended some of the conferences Mary oversaw.) The colorful Hawaiian shirts perfectly fit John's outgoing personality, and he was closely identified with them, up until the time of his death.

After John's retirement, he took piano lessons for several years from Houston music store icon Don Holcombe, now deceased; learning to play the piano was something he had always wanted to do. He also renewed his interest in growing and caring for orchids, another area of expertise he possessed.

The part of being retired that John truly loved was becoming a volunteer at the Houston Zoo. Up until the Covid-19 pandemic, John was faithfully at his shift, either at the carnivores or at the sea lions. He trained as a story teller, and loved to tell small children (as well as adults) about the animals they were observing. Upon his passing, the Zoo paid the following tribute to John:

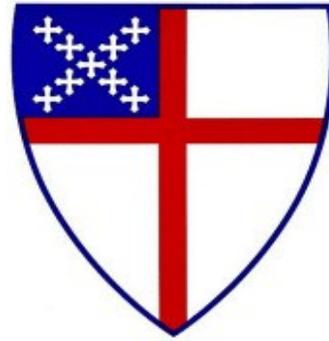
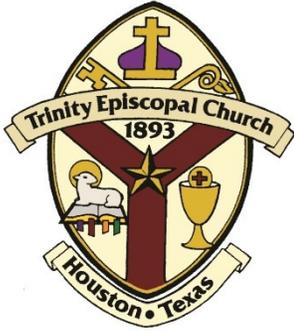
Known for his beautiful, colorful Hawaiian shirts that he wore to every Zoo social, John brought his sunny personality to all of his shifts. He was a fixture in the carnivore and sea lion areas, helping staff and interpreting to guests with his sense of humor. John was always in motion – laughing and talking with friends. In all the volunteer events we had, he was always active and engaging - just like his interactions with guests.

John's love for Trinity Church began when his parents and grandmother brought him to be baptized and where he later was confirmed. The annual Easter photos displayed in Fellowship Hall show him as a blur at age 3 while not being able to sit still in one of the little chairs in front, and as an older youngster trying to beat the camera by running from one end to the other. He also learned his love for serving at the altar as an acolyte under the eagle eye of then acolyte Master Ralph Davies.

John served Trinity Church in many capacities from being an usher/greeter to welcome everyone who came through the front door, to serving on future priest's discernment committees, to being on new rector search committees, to being a member of more than one Vestry. John was a member of the current Vestry at the time of his death. (According to one fellow vestryperson, John always had a knack for breaking the ice or lightening the mood when things starting getting too serious or heated. He always had a positive, upbeat spirit. He often said, that for a Vestry to be truly effective, it must always have food served at the meeting.)

Most of all, John loved working with young children as Acolyte Master. He had a gift for teaching them what it meant to serve at the altar on Sunday, to be in awe of God's presence. He took his role seriously, without ever being too serious. He gave the younger children the autonomy to grow and learn, acting more as a guide on the side, than a sage on the stage, gently encouraging them during a service, giving them their cues. John had an unrelenting love for good liturgy, for all the services of the Church. Most recently he participated in all the Holy Week services (most of which he helped to stream online) including The Watch for the Blessed Sacrament, held on Maundy Thursday/Good Friday. He even matched his shirts to the liturgical color of the service.

John Cloud was a good man, a faithful and loving husband, and a loyal friend. He will always be in our hearts.



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