

A Service of Christian Burial  
**In Celebration of and  
Thanksgiving for the Life of**  
*Roberta "BJ" McDonald*

April 14, 1945 ~ May 17, 2023



Saturday, May 27, 2023  
11 o'clock in the morning

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**33 East First Street**  
**Corning, New York**

## Flute & Piano Prelude

Please stand in body or in spirit.

Hymn 400: *All creatures of our God and King (odd verses)*

### **THE ANTHEM**

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.

### **THE COLLECT**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister BJ. 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.***

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Please be seated.

### **The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 61:1-3**

*Brian Kennedy*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

***Thanks be to God.***

### **The Psalm**

**Psalm 23**

*Brian Kennedy*

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.

## The Second Lesson

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

*Denis Kingsley*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

***Thanks be to God.***

*Instrumental*

Please stand in body or in spirit.

## The Gospel

## John 14:1-6

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I

will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Instrumental*

Please be seated.

**A Homily**

**The Rev. Betsy Sentigar**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Please stand in body or in spirit.

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 OF THE PEOPLE**

For our sister BJ, 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 BJ and dry the tears of those who weep.

***Hear us, Lord.***

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

***Hear us, Lord.***

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

Father of all, we pray to you for BJ, 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**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***And also with you.***

Please greet others to extend the peace.

### **THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE**

Please stand in body or in spirit.

Offertory Music

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give God 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 for ever sings this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Hymn S125: *Sanctus* (from *A Community Mass*) Richard Proulx

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

***Hosanna in the highest.*** (x 2, if sung)

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.*** (x 2, if sung)

Please stand or kneel in body or in spirit.

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,

***We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;***

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 the care of your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with BJ 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.**

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 bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION**

*Please come forward, down the center aisle, and the Priest or Paten Assistant will place the bread on your hand. Step to the side, place the bread in your mouth. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please extend your hands palm down to receive the bread. Cross your arms over your chest to receive only a blessing. Please return down the side aisles to your seat. Please take care to sanitize your hands before leaving your pew and coming forward for Communion. Notify an usher if you need communion brought to you.*

Communion Music

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Please stand or kneel in body or in spirit.

***Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food of the Body 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**

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, Roberta J. McDonald. 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**

God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, and the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. ***Amen.***

Hymn 423: *Immortal, Invisible God only wise*

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

*A Celebration of Life will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
at Jennie Fassett Cottage, 459 West First Street, Elmira, NY.*

### **FLOWERS & COMMUNION BREAD**

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of BJ by her family.

Today's communion bread is given by  
Christ Episcopal Church in thanksgiving for BJ.

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE**

### **CLERGY**

The Very Rev. Troy Preston  
The Rev. Betsy Sentigar  
The Rev. Kit Tobin

### **LECTORS**

Brian Kennedy, Denis Kingsley

### **LITURGICAL ASSISTANT**

Marion Ivy

### **PRESENTERS OF THE BREAD**

Arianna Figueroa, Jack & Sophia Taxiera

### **MUSICIANS**

Michele Gordon, Richard Grzybowski, Zack Knewstubb

### **MEDIA TECHNICIAN**

Loretta Preston

### **USHERS**

The Staff of McInerny Funeral Home

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Verna Freer, Martha Tober



## **OBITUARY**

Roberta "BJ" McDonald of Elmira, NY, a beloved figure in her community and a cherished member of her family, passed away on May 17, 2023. She was 78 years old. With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of a remarkable woman whose life touched so many in profound ways.

Born on April 14, 1945, in Rochester, NY, BJ's journey was one of resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication. She was a beacon of light for those fortunate enough to know her, spreading warmth and kindness wherever she went. BJ's legacy will forever be intertwined with the countless lives she impacted throughout her remarkable journey. BJ's passion for education and helping people led her to a fulfilling career in the Elmira School District and, prior to that, in various positions providing services to the disabled.

Outside of her professional endeavors, BJ was an avid supporter of various charitable causes and an active participant in community events. She dedicated countless hours to volunteer work, touching the lives of those in need and making a lasting impact on her community. This included founding programs for children's summer activities and troubled youth, being the first female in the area inducted into the Kiwanis Club and working with many other organizations, including the United Way and American Red Cross. BJ was also a woman of deep faith and was always involved in her church.

Family and friends were the cornerstones of BJ's life. Her devotion to her loved ones knew no limits. Her home was a gathering place, filled with laughter, love, and cherished memories. She is predeceased by many special family members and friends, and is survived by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, who will carry on her legacy of kindness and continue to live by the values she held dear.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Chemung County Humane Society & SPCA, an organization that BJ continually supported.

May her soul rest in eternal peace, as her spirit will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of all of us.