

# A Celebration of the Life of

*Bonnie Marion Burns*

*November 30, 1942 ~ October 19, 2025*



**GRACE episcopal church**

55 New Park Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

November 1, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

**BONNIE MARION BURNS** loved her life and lived it to the fullest. At the age of 82, she passed away peacefully at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford on October 19, 2025, following a courageous battle with blood cancer. Born in New Haven, Connecticut, on November 30, 1942, to Doris Meloy and William Bernard Burns, Bonnie grew up in Hartford's North End, where the Lenox Theater brought her art and culture and Keney Park offered a world of nature.

After graduating from Weaver High School in 1960, Bonnie had a long and productive career with the Southern New England Telephone Company (SNET), working for over 45 years. She traveled throughout the country training clients on the latest business phone systems, taking pride in connecting with people and helping them master new technology.

When she retired, Bonnie poured that same enthusiasm into new pursuits. Her appreciation of beauty led her to discover a passion for needlepoint, creating pieces so skillful they are considered museum-worthy. While working at a shop in Guilford, she met her dear friend Linda Lee. Stitching became about more than thread and canvas; it was community. She and Linda, along with other stitchers, would gather regularly to chat and create together. Pam Hawes was another dear friend, sharing dinners, laughter, and the joy of time well spent.

Throughout her life, Bonnie embraced travel and exploration. With family, she hiked the White Mountains, rafted the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, and visited the Pacific Northwest, Maine, Florida, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, and the Netherlands. With friends, she regularly visited Block Island and St. Martin.

Bonnie was an incredible cook, dutifully preparing meals for every holiday, often from treasured recipes passed down through generations. She even took care to make allergy-friendly dishes, ensuring her cooking could be shared by the whole family.

In her younger years, Bonnie had a great love of boating and spent many joyful days on the Connecticut River or Long Island Sound, enjoying the water and the camaraderie of fellow boaters. She was also an avid birder, whether scanning the skies at Hammonasset Beach State Park or enjoying the flurry of wings at her backyard feeders. Her home was filled with warmth and companionship, shared over the years by many beloved cats, including Kitty, Lillin, Munchkin, Amber, Scampie, Suzie, Sam, Buddy, Butch, Pippin, Cricket, Penny, and Pearl, each of whom held a special place in her heart.

She was predeceased by her brother William Burns and is survived by her brothers Tom Burns (wife Victoria) and Andy Burns. Bonnie adored her nieces and nephews: Tom's children, Abigail and William, and Andy's children, Eric (wife Jaimie, children Madison and Jackson) and Scott (wife Meghan, children Liam and Cameron). She treated them as her own, celebrating their milestones and growing families, and they cherished her attentive care and the delicious treats she brought to every gathering. She also leaves cousins Jeannie Mioline, Bob and Warren Defrank, and Sue Thomson, along with many dear friends who will carry her memory with love.

In accordance with her wishes, Bonnie will be cremated and her ashes scattered in the Connecticut River at Old Lyme, a place she loved to visit to watch the boats go by. The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to the dedicated staff of Smilow Cancer Center at Yale and The Connecticut Hospice in Branford for their exceptional care and compassion.

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### *Concerning the 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, 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.

*Book of Common Prayer, p. 507*

# GRACE episcopal church

## MEMORIAL SERVICE for BONNIE MARION BURNS

November 1, 2025

*WELCOME! We cordially invite all members of the congregation, whether or not members of the Episcopal Church, to take part in this service of prayer for Bonnie and those who mourn for her, by standing, sitting, and kneeling, by making the various responses, and by joining in the singing as indicated.*



Organ Prelude: *Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (d. 1958)

### THE ENTRANCE RITE

*All stand for the entrance of the Ministers of the Mass.*

Entrance Anthems (*choir*) *Burial Sentences* John Merbecke (c. 1550), arr. H. Willan and K. Swann

**I** am the resurrection and the life, saith the LORD: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger.

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the LORD.

*Celebrant:* The LORD be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the remains of our sister Bonnie for burial. Let us pray with confidence to God, the Giver of life, that he will raise her to perfection in the company of the saints.

Deliver thy servant Bonnie, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set her free from every bond; that she may rest with all thy saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit thou livest and reignest, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Collect (*remain standing.*)

*Celebrant:* The LORD be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**O** GOD, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Bonnie, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



## THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 *[NRSV]*

*Read by Eric Burns*

A Reading from the Book of the Ecclesiastes.

FOR everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; \ a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

The Word of the LORD.

*The People respond: Thanks be to God.*



Anthem (*choir*)

Stanley Marchant (d. 1949)

THE SOULS OF THE RIGHTEOUS are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: but they are in peace.

The Epistle: (*remain seated*): 2 Timothy 4: 6-8 *[NRSV]* (*remain seated*)

*Read by Scott Burns*

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

AS for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the LORD.

*The People respond: Thanks be to God.*



Hymn 646 (*sung by all*)

“The King of love my shepherd is”

*Dominus regit me*

1. The King of love my Shep-herd is, whose good - ness fail - eth nev - er;  
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran-somed soul He lead - eth,  
 3. Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me.  
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with Thee, dear Lord be - side me;  
 5. Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my sight; Thy unc - tion grace be - stow - eth;  
 6. And so through all the length of days Thy good - ness fail - eth nev - er;

I noth - ing lack if I am His and He is mine for - ev - er.  
 and, where the ver - dant pas-tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 And on His shoul-der gen - tly laid, and home re - joic - ing brought me.  
 Thy rod and staff my com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.  
 and O what trans - port of de - light from Thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!  
 Good Shep-herd, may I sing Thy praise with - in Thy house for - ev - er.

The Holy Gospel (*all stand*): John 14: 1-6 [RSV] (*all stand*)

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

*People:* ✕ Glory be to thee, O LORD.

“**L**ET not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way 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; no one comes to the Father, but by me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People's response:* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Remembrances (*all sit*)

Madison Burns  
Jackson Burns  
Abigail Burns  
Andrew Burns

Homily (*all sit*)

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*

The Apostles' Creed (*all stand*)

**I** believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
**I** And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Aria, from *Messiah*

Alexis Hartman, *soprano*

George Frideric Handel (d. 1759)

**I** KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

(Job 19:25-26)

For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

(I Corinthians 15:20)

The Lord's Prayer (*all kneel or stand*)

*Celebrant:* The LORD be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**O**UR 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 Prayers of the People (*the people kneel or stand as they are able*)

*Leader:* In peace, let us pray to the LORD.

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. *Amen.*

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. *Amen.*

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. *Amen.*

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. *Amen.*

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. *Amen.*

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. *Amen.*

Grant us grace to entrust Bonnie to thy never-failing love; receive her into the arms of thy mercy, and remember her according to the favor that thou bearest unto thy people. *Amen.*

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, she may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Martin, and all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



## THE COMMENDATION

Commendation Anthem (*choir; remain standing*)

*Kontakion [Kievan Chant]*

**G**IVE rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints: where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting. Thou only art immortal, the Creator and Maker of man: and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return, for so thou didst ordain, when thou createdst me, saying, Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. All we go down to the dust; and weeping o'er the grave, we make our song: alleluya, alleluya, alleluya.

Commendation Prayer:

*Celebrant:* Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Bonnie. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

The Blessing and Dismissal

*Celebrant:* The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

*Celebrant:* Rest eternal grant unto her O LORD;

*People:* And let light perpetual shine upon her.

*Celebrant:* May she rest this day in peace.

*People:* Amen.

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*In Paradisum (choir)*

Mode VII

**I**NTO Paradise may the angels lead thee, and at thy coming may the martyrs receive thee, and bring thee into the holy city, Jerusalem. May the choir of angels receive thee, and with Lazarus, who once was poor, mayst thou have rest eternal.

*Please join us for a reception in our parish hall following the service.*

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Grace Episcopal Church

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**W**E are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*

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