

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF



NANCI A. GORDON
(October 5, 1962 to July 26, 2026)

Trinity Episcopal Church, Rutland, Vermont
August 2, 2026
12:30pm

A Celebration of the Life of Nanci A. Gordon

Nanci's Message to all gathered:

"Music being a lifelong passion of mine, there is much in this service. Yes, it will be longer, but the choices are quite deliberate, and the combination of secular music and sanctioned hymns is quintessentially ME. Please respectfully listen as you gather for the service and as you leave the church. I may have died, but I ask a farewell favor of you all.

It is also important to me that emotions be expressed freely at this service. If someone cares to cry for me, I offer my heartfelt thanks for the love behind the tears, be it for me or for others called to mind. Please do not let anyone tell you or anyone else they "have to be strong" for me. They ARE being strong by being authentic."



Prelude

*I Still Believe
Let It Be*

The Call
The Beatles

The Word of God

Opening Hymn #370

I bind unto myself today

St. Patrick's Breastplate

Opening Bidding

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Collects

Priest: O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Nanci. 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 Nanci's family, friends and loved ones 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.*

Reader: 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; 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: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 (said in unison)

- 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.

Anthem Hymns #464
#487

He is the Way
Come my Way, my Truth, my Life

New Dance
The Call

A Reading from the book of Revelation

Revelation 7:9-17

Reader: After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that

knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #694

God be in my head

Lylington

The Holy Gospel According to John

John 14:1-7

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Priest: “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. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

the Rev. Sarah Ginolfi

The Apostles’ Creed

Priest: In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

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

Priest: For our sister, Nanci, 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 Nanci, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People: *Hear us, Lord.*

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

People: *Hear us, Lord.*

Priest: You raised the dead to life; give to Nanci eternal life.

People: *Hear us, Lord.*

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

People: *Hear us, Lord.*

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

People: *Hear us, Lord.*

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

People: *Hear us, Lord.*

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

(Silence may be kept.)

Priest: Father of all, we pray to you for Nanci, 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 *(Nanci exhorts that hugging is strongly encouraged!)*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Music During the Peace

All Things Must Pass

George Harrison

Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #534

God is working his purpose out

Purpose

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

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 or kneel.)

Celebrant: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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." Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

People: *We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

Celebrant: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living

sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember our sister Nanci and all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light. And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

People: 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 consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.)

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: 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.

You are welcome at God's table! To receive, come up the center aisle to the rail and return via the side aisles. If mobility is a concern, ask an usher for Communion at your seat. Receive wine by drinking from the common cup or by intinction (dipping the wafer) into the Communion Bowl—not the cup. A grape juice bowl (lighter colored liquid) is offered and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. To receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest to signal that to the priest.

Communion Hymns #324

#405

#293

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

All things bright and beautiful

I sing a song of the saints of God

Picardy

Royal Oak

Grand Isle

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: 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

The Commendation

All: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Priest: You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind; 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:

All: 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.

Priest: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Nanci. 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.

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Compline

Priest: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

The Blessing

Priest: May the Blessings of God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always.

Closing Hymn #499

Lord God, you now have set your servant free

Song 1

Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia, Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

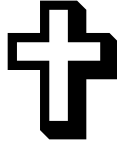
People: Thanks be to God, Alleluia.

Postlude

*All You Need is Love
R U Ready?*

*The Beatles
Ringo Starr*

Those wishing to witness the committal of the ashes in the Memorial Garden will find the Committal Service on the back page. To honor Nanci's wishes, please remain seated during the postlude music, then proceed to the Memorial Garden.



Officiant: the Rev. Sarah Ginolfi

Organist: John Riddle

Chalice Assistant: Rich Jones

First Lesson Reader: Sue Beriau

Second Lesson Reader: Ed Kelly

Intercessor: Mary Ruth

Livestream Tech: Melissa Alarie

Ushers: Kathy Hall, Maria Cruise, Marc Brierre, Judy Hall

Reception Hosts: Katherine Keniston, Sarah Danner, Kathy Hall, Ernie Hathaway, Katya Cooke

We offer a warm welcome to all those family and friends joining us online!
We acknowledge your participation in this joyful celebration of our beloved Nanci's life.

* * * *

You are cordially invited to a reception with light refreshments and fellowship
in Nourse Hall following the service. Please come!



...the actress



...the Trekkie



...the youngster



...the United Way leader



...the Diocesan conventioneer



...the surrogate auntie and godmother



...the indefatigable perseverant



...the media mogul



...the Episcopal General Conventioneer



...the funster clown



...the preacher



...the Beatles aficionado



...the pet mom



...the social activist



...the sister and very best of friends!

The Committal

(Remove to Memorial Garden for the interment of ashes.)

The Committal

Priest: Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit. My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. 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.
(Then, when the ashes have been dispersed, the Celebrant says these words)

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister, Nanci, and we commit her body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her and give her peace. Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Priest: Let us pray.

Rest eternal grant to Nanci, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Dismissal

Priest: 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 eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God.*