

Celebrating the Life of



Mildred Louise Lewis

August 25, 1941 – October 16, 2024

Saturday, November 23rd, 2024

Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension
4520 Lucas Hunt Road
Northwoods, Missouri 63121

Obituary

Mildred L. Lewis

August 25, 1941 – October 16, 2024

Mildred L. Lewis, née Williamson, was born in Mason, Tennessee, on August 25, 1941. The only child of Myrtle (Parker) and George Williamson, she grew up in a hard-working and loving home.

She attended Gailor High School, graduating as a salutatorian. She then enrolled at Owen Jr. College (now LeMoyne-Owen College) in Memphis, Tennessee, followed by Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, where she earned a BA in Education. After graduating, she moved back home to teach Elementary School. She married Samuel J. Lewis on July 25, 1964. They had their only child, Samuel J. Lewis, II, on September 23, 1969.

After separating from her husband, she and her young son moved to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1972, where two of her uncles (Arvell and John Parker), their families (Dovie, Mattie, Sheila, Rita, John Arthur, Charlene) and many beloved cousins lived. She returned to school at Harris Teachers College (now Harris-Stowe State College) to get certified to teach in Missouri while working at Gateway National Bank on Union Boulevard, the first and only Black-owned commercial bank in Missouri.

She received her Missouri Teacher's Certificate for Elementary Education in 1976. In total, Mildred taught for over 40 years in Tennessee and Missouri. She proudly received an *Apple for the Teacher* Award in the 80s. Her specialty was Fifth Grade, where her love for a well-decorated bulletin board was only surpassed by a dedicated love for her students and fellow faculty.

She was raised in the Church at Canaan Grove Baptist Church in Mason, Tennessee, and developed a strong and lasting faith in God. Once married, she converted to the Episcopal faith, attending St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mason. After moving to St. Louis, she became a member of All Saints Episcopal Church, then All Saints and Ascension for 50 years, where she was a proud member of St. Margaret's Guild.

A true servant of God, Mildred was always there to help others by providing caregiver support to her aunt Florida Dickerson, two fellow Church members, and others. She also supported her community by being active in local politics and getting out into her Kingsway neighborhood to organize clean-up efforts to keep her community beautiful. She even provided temporary housing to a couple of her son's friends when they needed a safe space.

She truly followed Jesus' example. One of her favorite quotes was by James M. Barrie, "Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

God called Mildred home on October 16, 2024; she was 83. Mildred was preceded in death by her mother, father, husband, and a host of uncles, aunts, and cousins. She is survived by her son, Samuel (Erin Maxen), and three grandchildren, Sawyer, Noah, and Parker. She is also survived by her aunt Archie (Parker) Fayne and a host of cousins and cherished friends.



The Book of Common Prayer

Rite II with Holy Eucharist

Prelude Music *Instrumental*

All stand as the procession enters and the funeral anthems are spoken by the Celebrant.

Opening Anthems

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.

Opening Salutation

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collects

Celebrant O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Mildred. 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 Mildred's family in *their* grief. Surround *them* with your love, that *they* may not be overwhelmed by *their* loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 40:31

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 23 *King James Version*

The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; *
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Second Reading

1 John 3: 1-2

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel

John 5: 24-27

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

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

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

‘Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner

The Apostles' Creed

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

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

Deacon For our sister Mildred, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I the Resurrection and I am Life.”

Leader Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Mildred, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People ***Hear us, Lord.***

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

People ***Hear us, Lord.***

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

People ***Hear us, Lord.***

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

People ***Hear us, Lord.***

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

People ***Hear us, Lord.***

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

People ***Hear us, Lord.***

Leader 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.

Concluding Collect

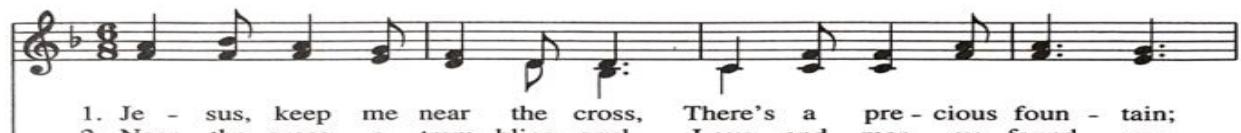
Celebrant Father of all, we pray to you for Mildred, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May *her* soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ***Amen.***

The Peace

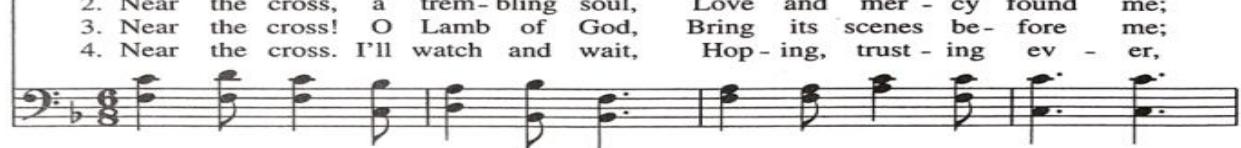
Offertory Hymn

Near the Cross

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1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross, There's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
4. Near the cross. I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



1. Free to all, a heal - ing stream Flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
2. There the Bright and Morn - ing Star Sheds its beams a - round me.
3. Help me walk from day to day With its shad - ows o'er me.
4. Till I reach the gold - en strand Just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross Be my glo - ry ev - er;



Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be - yond the riv - er.



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Liturgy of the Table

The Eucharist Prayer-Prayer B

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 thanks and praise.***

Celebrant 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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People (spoken)

***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.

Celebrant 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,

Celebrant and People

***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 subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ 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 taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

*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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion of the People

(ALL are invited to God's Table. You may come forward to receive the Body of Christ or to receive a blessing. Some may wish to remain in your seats. Please use this time to quietly sit and pray or join the choir in song.)

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
 2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
 2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh — Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).

1. 2.

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*,
Copyright © 1992.

Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth-er on our knees (yes on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh —

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).

The Post communion Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant 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.

Reflections/Condolences

The Commendation

The Celebrant and other ministers take their places at the urn.

***Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.***

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: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.***

The Celebrant, facing the urn, says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Mildred. 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.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy!

NICAEA

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826

John B. Dykes, 1861

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
east - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - feet, in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

*All are invited to join the family for a repast at
St. Stephen's and the Vine Episcopal Church
33 N. Clay Ave.
Ferguson, MO*

Today's Liturgical Leaders

Celebrant
The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector

Deacon
The Rev. Deacon Dr. Valerie E. Patton

Worship Leader
Stanley Johnson

Readers
*Samuel Lewis
Sanford Hamilton*

Acolyte
Joyce Crittenden

Guest Minister of Music
Terrell Thompson

All Saints and Ascension Altar Guild, Choir, and Ushers

Thank you

Thanks to everyone who joined us today.

A special “THANK YOU” to All Saints and Ascension’s Episcopal Church Women (ECW) who helped prepare today’s repast and to the Rev. Aaron Rogers and the beloved community of St. Stephen’s and the Vine Episcopal Church, Ferguson for hosting.

A special “THANK YOU” to Mr. Stanley Merridith, Golden Heart Home Health, Bethesda Hospice Care staff, Village North Retirement Apartments residents and staff, The Pillars of North County staff, and the many family member and friends who took part in Mildred’s care.

