

The Rite of Christian Burial
In Thanksgiving for the Life of



ANNIE LOUISE SHANNON WHITE
JULY 10, 1939 – MARCH 20, 2026

1:00 p.m., Saturday, April 18, 2026

Greater Grace Church
Ferguson, Missouri



Bishop Larry O. Jones, Pastor

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector
Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension, Presiding

Annie's Life Reflections

Annie Louise Shannon was born on July 10, 1939, in Egypt, MS, the only child of Clarence and Hazel Shannon. Moving to St. Louis in the 1940's enabled Annie to have surgery to correct a congenital heart defect. From then on, Annie hit the ground running! As a young girl, she loved to jump Double Dutch so much that she would wear out her shoes. She attended St. Louis Public Schools, graduating from Vashon High School. Annie later attended Harris-Stowe State Junior College, where she also worked as a lab assistant, and received an Associate of Arts degree in Biology in 1960.

In the early 1960's, Annie passed the Civil Service exam and worked at USPS as a mail clerk— sorting mail in the last days before nationwide zip codes (there are now a few dozen in the St. Louis area alone, you can imagine how much mail that was!). During this time, she married Joseph Hubbard, Jr. and began a family of six daughters. Raising her kids with her mother, Hazel Shannon, Annie continued to work, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Harris-Stowe State College, and received her Teacher's Certificate in 1972. She went on to enthusiastically teach elementary school in the St. Louis Public schools for over 30 years. She taught grades 4-6, and then 7-8, before finding her true calling of 1st grade, a critical year for students to learn reading and to develop writing skills. She also continually sought additional education for herself and received her Master of Arts in Education from Webster University in 1986. Annie earned several awards for her teaching, including a St. Louis Urban League Teacher of the Year Award in 1990, and the Missouri National Education Association Horace Mann Teacher Award in 1991. She was one of the Select Teachers as Regional Resources for the Missouri Department of Secondary and Elementary Education, 2003-2005. During the last few years of her professional career in the early 2000's, Annie applied her years of classroom experience to train other teachers, working for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

A teacher by day, Annie supplemented her income working nights, weekends, and holidays at Gasen's Drugstore— later Walgreens. She was dedicated to supporting her children and students. She believed in all the kids who came through her life, whether by home or classroom, instilling in them a sense of self-confidence and know-how. Annie was able to achieve anything she put her mind to and instilled this philosophy in all who knew her. For example, in 1974, Annie, her mother and her five children (with a sixth on the way) bought their first house on Shenandoah Ave in south St. Louis, integrating the neighborhood.

Annie was a longtime active and dedicated member of All Saints Episcopal Church (now Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension). As a member of St. Margarets' Guild, Annie baked delicious cakes, pies, and cookies for their fundraisers. Additionally, she served on the Altar Guild, taught confirmation classes, participated as a Lay Reader, and served on the church Vestry.

During her retirement years, she remained an avid reader, raised a bountiful vegetable garden, enjoyed travel, took water aerobics classes, and taught her grandkids to read. Annie was an artist and she took drawing classes at Meramec Community College. Her children and grandchildren inherited her artistic talents. Annie enlisted her grandkids' talents to create bible scenes on ceramic tiles and to string prayer beads to sell at fundraisers for church confirmation class supplies. She also volunteered with the St. Louis Peregrine Society, dedicated to improving the quality of life of cancer patients living in the St. Louis area, and enjoyed participating in their Trivia Night events.

Left to cherish her memory are her six daughters, Kim (David), Kelly, Crystal (Paul), Joelle (Robert), Lauren (Paul), and Anneliese (William); ten grandchildren, Vivienne, Carmen, Shane, Rosie, Annie, Angelina, Gabrielle, Blake, Jerid, and Tohajie, and one great-grandchild, Parker.

She will be loved and remembered by ex-spouses Joseph Hubbard, Jr and Harold White, Jr, many other relatives, friends, former co-workers, Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension members, neighbors and students whose lives she touched.



The Burial of the Dead

Concerning the Service: The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all 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.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, p. 507

Prelude Music *"Amazing Grace" Instrumental*

All stand while the following anthems are said in procession.

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.

Song Selection

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

72

1. I am weak but thou art strong; _____
 2. Through this world of toil and snares, _____
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, _____
Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, _____

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; — I'll be sat - is - fied as
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? — Who with me my bur - den
 3. Time for me will be no more; — Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly
Refrain: Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, — Dai - ly walk - ing close to

D.C. for Refrain

1. long _____ As I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 2. shares? — None but thee, dear — Lord, none but thee.
 3. o'er _____ To Thy king - dom — shore, to thy shore.
Refrain: thee, _____ Let it be, dear — Lord, let it be.

Opening Salutation and Collects

Presider The Lord be with you.

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

Presider *Let us pray.*

Presider O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister, Annie. 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 Annie'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 for the readings.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

read by Vivienne Muller

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3: 1-4)

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 23 *King James Version*

read by Rosie Lopolito

*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

read by Robert B. Enyard, Tohajie Raet
and Carmen Muller

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans (8: 14-19, 31-35, 37-39).

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 received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba!^[a] Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness^[b] with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact 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.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ^[c] who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right

hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than victorious 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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Annie's Life Reflections (*read silently to music*)

The Holy Gospel

John 14: 1-6

Please stand.

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

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

'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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Homily

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner

Please stand.

The Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer

Deacon 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.***

Presider 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.***

Prayers of the People

Led by Joyce Crittenden

Deacon For our sister Annie, 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 Annie, 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 Annie 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

Presider Father of all, we pray to you for Annie, 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.**

Please be seated.

Song Selection *"His Eye is on the Sparrow"* Rochelle Jordan, Soloist

Eulogy Crystal Lopolito

Remarks Lauren MacDougall
 Gerthia Carter
 Bishop Larry O. Jones

Thank you

The Commendation

The Presider 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.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Annie. 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

Presider 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.***

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People ***Thanks be to God.***



Closing Hymn

69

In the Garden

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Though the

1. dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
2. sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the me - lo - dy that He
3. night a - round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go through the

1. on my ear, The Son of God dis - clos - es.
2. gave to me With - in my heart is ring - ing.
3. voice of woe, His voice to me is call - ing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He

tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we

tar - ry there, None oth - er has ev - er known.

Today's Liturgical Participants

Presider

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Deacon Valerie E. Patton

Guest Minister of Music

Ms. Cheryl Walker

Choir

Members of Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension

Special Thanks to

Greater Grace Church and Bishop Larry O. Jones, Pastor

Episcopal Church of
All Saints and Ascension

Assistance Home Care

The family of Annie Louise Shannon White would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your love, support, prayers, cards, texts, gifts and other expressions of sympathy during this time. May God bless and keep you.



Better Days

Song by Dianne Reeves • 1982

*Silver gray hair neatly combed in place.
There were four generations of love on her face.
She was so wise, no surprise passed her eyes,
She'd seen it all.
I was a child, oh, about three or four.
All day I'd ask questions.
At night I'd ask more.
But whenever; she never, would ever, turn me away.
I'd say how can I be sure what is right or wrong?
And why does what I want always take so long?
Please tell me where does God live
And why won't He talk to me ?
I'd say, Grandma what is love ?
Will I ever find out ?
Why are we so poor, what is life about ?
I want to know the answers before I fall off to sleep.
She sort of smiled as she tucked me in.
Then she pulled up that old rockin' chair once again.
But tonight she was slightly, remarkably
Different somehow
Slowly she rocked, lookin' half asleep.
Grandma yawned as she stretched.
Then she started to speak.
What she told me, would mold me, and hold me
Together inside.
She said all the things you ask
You will know someday.
But you have got to live in a patient way.
God put us here by fate
And by fate that means better days.
She said, child we are all moons in the dark of night.
Ain't no morning gonna come 'til the time is right.
Can't get to better days lest you make it through the night.
You gotta make it through the night, yes you do.
You can't get to no better days
Unless you make it through the night.
Oh, you will see those better days*

*But you gotta be patient.
(Be patient) oh baby, be patient.
Later that year, at the turn of spring,
Heaven sent angels down and gave Grandma her wings.
Now, she's flying, and sliding, and gliding
In better days
And although I'm all grown up
I still get confused.
I stumble through the dark
Getting bumped and bruised.
When night gets in my way
I could still hear my Grandma say
I can hear her say,
I can hear her say.
You can't get to no better days
Unless you make it through the night baby.
(Be patient) Oh, you will see those better days
But you gotta be patient.
Child, do you hear me, yeah.
You can't get to no better days
Unless you make it, you got to make it
You got to make it
You got to make it through the night
Oh Grandma, oh Grandma
Do you see me now, lady
Oh oh oh oh oh
She used to sit me on her knee
She used to comb my hair
She used to tell me stories
My Grandma took me everywhere*

*Songwriters: Dianne E. Reeves / Tony Donn Lorrich
Better Days lyrics © Tunecore Inc, Universal Music Publishing Group*





