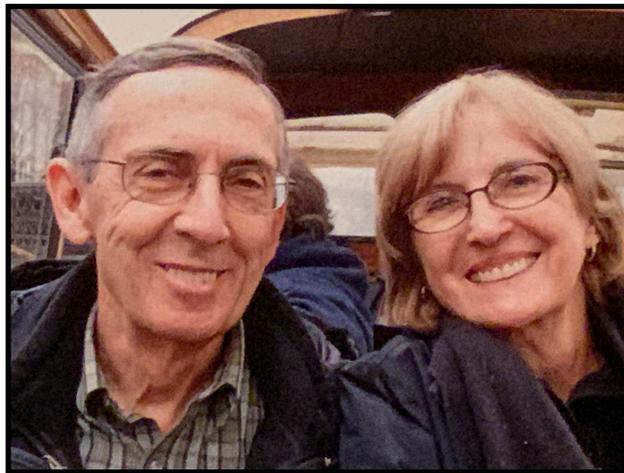


EPIPHANY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1419 Odenton Road Odenton, Maryland

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Pieter de Wit

June 23, 1945 - July 5, 2021



August 21, 2021

Celebrant: The Reverend Dr. Phebe L. McPherson

Musicians: Dr. Mark Hardy, Keyboard
Kathleen Graves, Soloist

Zoom Communications: Dr. Maryellen Polvino-Bodnar

ORDER OF SERVICE

Today's Service is found in the Book of Common Prayer of The Episcopal Church.

The Centennial Memorial Gardens

10:00 am

Prelude *Fantasia Psalm 87* **John Propitius, Dutch Organist**

Opening Sentences

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 Hymn *Just a closer walk with thee* **LEVAS Hymnal - 72**

Celebrant & People

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother, Pieter. We thank you for giving him to us, his 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 united with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with his family in their grief, especially Kathleen, Alex, Rebekah, Sofie, Jan & Bok Cha, Robert & Linda, Casey & Cathy, Lettie & Rich, Liz & Ed, nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws, friends, and his Epiphany Church family. 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. May we entrust all who are dear to us, especially Pieter's parents, Jan & Alettha de Wit, and Tanta Hennie to your never-failing love and care in this life and in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hebrew Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

Anna Barton

Psalm 23

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 forever.

New Testament

I Corinthians 13

Robert de Wit

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.

Tennyson Poem

Crossing the Bar

Alex de Wit

Reflections

Rebekah de Wit, Jan de Wit

Gospel Hymn

Psalm 61 (A cappella)

The Gospel & Homily

John 10: 11-18

The Rector

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes[a] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Prayers of the People

Dr. Maryellen Polvino-Bodnar

For our brother, Pieter, 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 Pieter, 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 brother eternal life. *Hear us, Lord.*

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven. *Hear us, Lord.*

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints. *Hear us, Lord.*

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom. *Hear us, Lord.*

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

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

The Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

Presentation Hymn

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.

God help us be a meeting ground where hope and healing can be found.

God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people everywhere.

Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for pow'r that separate.

When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise.

Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.

God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread,

Where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.

Celebrant & People

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.*

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

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 Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People *Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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,

People and Celebrant

*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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing at the communion station.

Alberto James, Chalicist

Hymns *Ave Maria (Schubert), His Eye Is On The Sparrow*

The Post-communion Prayer

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.

Prayer for Peace

O God, the Father of all, guide us into the ways of peace. Lead us from prejudice to truth; deliver us from hatred, cruelty, violence, and mean spiritedness; fill us with generosity, hospitality and love, and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

All Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one, evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in power of the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Closing Hymn *On Eagle's Wings (Michael Joncas)*

1 - You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of His hand
(Final: And hold you in the palm of His hand.)

2 - The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield

3 - You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come

4 - For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

Closing Sentences

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb.

The Sun of Righteousness is gloriously risen, giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world.

Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in his Name, saying, Come, O blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you.

Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs receive you, and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.

*The de Wit family welcomes everyone to join them
at a reception following the service on the Labyrinth Porch.*

Obituary

Pieter de Wit, 76, died on July 5, 2021 at his home in Severn, MD after bravely fighting a long illness. He was born and raised in the Netherlands before immigrating to the US, where he graduated from Sparrows Point High School and Johns Hopkins University. A lifelong engineer, he also enjoyed technical and creative projects as hobbies – especially boat-building, sailing, art, and DIY. Recently he delighted in his new granddaughter. His loved ones will miss his kind and giving nature, creativity and insights, and constant support for others. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years Kathleen Sullivan de Wit, children Alex and Rebekah, and grandchild Sofie. He is also survived by cherished siblings Lettie (Rich) Kline, Jan (Bok Cha) de Wit, Robert (Linda) de Wit, Casey (Cathy) de Wit, and Liz (Ed) Martinkus, as well as many nephews and nieces, cousins, in-laws, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Jan and Alettha de Wit. An outdoor memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 21 at 10 am at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 1419 Odenton Rd., Odenton, MD 21113, where Pieter was a devoted parishioner. Kindly omit flowers. Contributions may be made in Pieter's memory to Epiphany Episcopal Church, Box 110, Odenton, MD 21113 or to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403.

