

*A service in celebration of the life of*



*The Rev. Charles Witke*

*September 22, 1931 - March 21, 2026*

*April 25, 2026*

*4 p.m.*

*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

*Ann Arbor, MI*

**PRELUDE:** *Apparition de l'Église Éternelle*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

*Apparition of the Eternal Church: "As it is said in the hymn for the Dedication of Churches: chisel, hammer, suffering and trials cut and polish the elect, living stones of the spiritual edifice (which is expressed by the incessant pulsing of the bass)"*

**OPENING ANTHEM**

*Please stand.*

*Cantor and Choir*

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.

*Bishop*           The Lord be with you.

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

*Bishop*           Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Charles. 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 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 all who grieve. 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.**

**HYMN 208** (Blue Hymnal 1982) *The strife is o'er*

*Please be seated.*

**THE FIRST READING** *Wisdom 3: 1-5, 9*

Reader: Barbara Mackey King

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*           The Word of the Lord.

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

## PSALM 121

- <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills  
from where is my help to come?  
<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
<sup>4</sup>Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
<sup>6</sup>So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup>The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep you safe.  
<sup>8</sup>The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth for evermore.

**THE SECOND READING** *Revelation 21: 2-7*

Reader: Jonathan Gardner

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN 487** *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life*

**THE GOSPEL** *John 6: 37-40*

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

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

Jesus said, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

*Deacon*           The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HOMILY**

The Rev. Paul Frolick

**MUSICAL MEDITATION:** *Vignette*

Eugénie R. Rocherolle (1939-2025)

Amy Porter, Flute

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Please stand*

Led by Donna Wessel Walker

For our brother Charles, 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 Charles and dry the tears of those who weep.

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

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

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

You raised the dead to life; give to Charles eternal life.

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

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring Charles to the joys of heaven.

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

Charles was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

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

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

*People* **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. *Silence may be kept.*

*Bishop*

Father of all, we pray to you for Charles, 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**

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

**MUSIC:** *Ave verum Corpus*

William Byrd (1540-1623)

St. Andrews' Adult Choir

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

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

*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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:

(Music found at S-130 in the Blue Hymnal 1982)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

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,

**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 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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Bishop breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Bishop* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

*Bishop* 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.

*Please come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The priest will place the bread in your outstretched palm (consecrated rice wafers are available for those with wheat allergies - simply ask the priest). You may dip (intinct) the bread in the wine in the small cup held by the Eucharistic minister, or drink from the larger chalice which will follow. Please know that Christ is fully present in both the bread and the wine - there is no requirement to receive both. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward, cross your hands over your chest, and receive a blessing.*

**HYMN 335** *I am the bread of life*

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food 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 PRAYER**

*Bishop* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

*People* **where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Bishop* 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.

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

*Bishop* Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Charles. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

**HYMN 665** *All my hope on God is founded*

**RECESSIONAL:** *Litany of Saints*

*You are invited to follow the procession out to the Memorial Garden for the Committal.*

## THE COMMITTAL

*Bishop*

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.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Charles, and we commit his ashes to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

*Bishop*           The Lord be with you

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

*Bishop*           Let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM:**     *In paradisum*

*May choirs of angels escort you into paradise, and at your arrival, may the martyrs receive and welcome you; may they bring you home into the holy city, Jerusalem. May the holy angels welcome you, and with Lazarus, who lived in poverty, may you have everlasting rest.*

*Bishop*           Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

*People*           **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

*Bishop*           May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

*Bishop*           Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

*Bishop*           Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

*Aileen invites you to a reception downstairs in the Parish Hall.*

*In lieu of flowers, Fr. Charles requested memorial donations be made to the Breakfast Program at St. Andrew's and the Humane Society of Huron Valley*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

*Celebrant*

*Homilist*

*Assisting*

*Deacon*

*Gospeller*

*Director of Music/Organist*

*Flute*

*Lay Eucharistic Ministers*

*Acolyte*

*Readers & Intercessor*

*Usher*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry

The Rev. Paul Frolick

The Rev. JoAnn Kennedy Slater

The Rev. Dcn. Felicity Thompson

The Rev. Dcn. Svea Gray

Dr. Deborah Friauff

Amy Porter

Barb Kelly, Bob Westveer

Ann Garvin

Barbara Mackey King, Jonathan Gardner, Donna Wessel Walker

Elaine Mouradian

from *Evening Land*

Delightful being, morning with rosy lips,  
sing for me.  
Sing a song, early and clear like dew, like young glass,  
a song that transfigures everything.

\*\*\*

All is there, only I am no more,  
all is still there, the fragrance of rain in the grass  
as I remember it, and the sigh of the wind in the trees,  
the flight of the clouds and the disquiet of the human heart.

Only my heart's disquiet is no longer there.

\*\*\*

I listen to the wind that obliterates my traces.  
The wind that remembers nothing,  
understands nothing nor cares what it does,  
but is so lovely to listen to.  
The soft wind,  
soft like oblivion.

When the new morning breaks  
I shall wander further,  
in the windless dawn begin my wandering afresh  
with my very first step  
in the wonderfully untouched sand.

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My longing is not my own.  
It is just as old as the stars.  
Once born like them  
out of Nothing,  
out of the boundless void.

The murmur in the trees,  
the beating of the wave against the shore,  
the tall mountains far away —  
they arouse my longing.  
But not to anything here.  
To something infinitely far away,  
something long, long ago —

Long before the sea, long before the mountains, long before the winds.

-Pär Lagerkvist  
English translation by W.H. Auden and Leif Sjöberg