

IN CELEBRATION OF
AND IN THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF

Barbara “Bebe” Lord Johnston Gow

May 21, 1927 – March 18, 2026

June 20, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Christ Church Cathedral


Houston, Texas

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of humankind who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

The Burial of the Dead: Rite II

The Very Reverend Nathaniel Katz, Officiant

 *The Cathedral is equipped with a hearing loop for assisted listening via telecoil.
Hymns and service music (S) are in The Hymnal 1982.
The people's responses are in **bold**.*

Prelude

Go Tell It On The Mountain
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
This Little Light of Mine
The Battle Hymn of the Republic

American Spiritual
Nettleton
J. S. Bach
American Spiritual
Julia Ward Howe (1819–1910)

The Anthem

All stand as able while the anthem is said.

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.

The Word of God

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Bebe. 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.**

Hymn 625 Ye holy angels bright

Darwall's 148th

The people are seated.

The First Reading

Lamentations 3:22–26, 31–33

Read by Kristen Johnston Van Veen

Reader A reading from Lamentations.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (KJV)

Led by Cati Brown

Leader Let us recite the psalm in unison.

**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 preparast 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.**

The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:16–5:9

Read by Alexandra Johnston

Reader A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling-- if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People, all standing as able.

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

**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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant and People in unison.

**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 Prayers of the People

Led by Conor Johnston

Leader In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For our sister Bebe, 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 Bebe 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 sister eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

The Officiant continues

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

The Commendation

Officiant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Bebe with your saints,

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

Officiant You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; 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.**

Officiant continues

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

Hymn 287 For All The Saints (stanzas 1, 2 and 4)

Sine Nomine

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*Following the service, all are invited to a reception in
Reynolds Hall*

Procession to Reynolds Hall When the Saints Go Marching In

Spiritual



Clergy

The Very Reverend Nathanie Katz, Officiant

Music

Sterling Johnston Maximo and Helenita Johnston Frounfelkner, vocal duet

Ann Fairbanks, flute

Tom Tillotson, trumpet

Valentina Huang, Cathedral Organist

Please be advised that our services may be livestreamed to Vimeo and Facebook. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.

Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun. Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly.