



Funeral Service in  
Thanksgiving for the Life of  
**Thelma Gertrude “Zellie” Carter**

April 18, 1939 - January 7, 2025

St. John the Baptist, Anglican Church  
Saturday, January 18, 2025

*Clergy will enter from the back, reciting the Burial Sentences*

Prelude Music

*Surinder Mundra*

✠ Burial Sentences

Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.  
In my Father's house, there are many rooms; if it were not so,  
would I have told you I go to prepare a place for you?  
And when I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again  
and will take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also.

*John 14: 1-3*

I am sure 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.

*Romans 8:38-39*

Welcome

*The Reverend Daniel Brereton*

Opening Address

*Covey Carter*

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Deacon: Let us pray. O God, the maker and redeemer of all, grant us,  
with your servant Thelma and all the faithful departed, the  
sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious  
resurrection; that in the last day, when you gather up all things  
in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your  
promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and  
ever.

All: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn– “Lift Every Voice”

*All stand and sing*

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list’ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast’ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our people sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

*Please be seated*



Scripture Reading: *Read by Marcia Wilkinson*

## A Reading from the Book of Revelation

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 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; 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.’

*Revelation 21: 1-4*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121: *Read by Lisa Small and Fay Williams*

I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in,  
from this time on and for evermore.

Scripture Reading: *Read by Hortense Selman*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So, you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*Romans 6: 1-11*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading: *Read by Victor Williams*

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel according to John

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'

Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

*John 11: 20-27*

Homily

*The Rev. Daniel Brereton*

Hymn: "Jerusalem the Golden"

Jerusalem the golden! with milk and honey blest;  
Beneath your contemplation sink heart and voice opprest.  
I know not, oh! I know not, what joys await us there,  
What radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.

There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,  
The shout of those who triumph, the song of those who feast,  
And they, who with their Leader, have conquer'd in the fight,  
Forever and forever, are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!  
O dear and future vision, that eager hearts expect.  
Even now by faith we see thee, even here they walls discern;  
To thee our thoughts are kindled; for thee our spirits yearn.

Tributes *Collis Carter*

*Peggy Brathwaite (singing "The Lord's My Shepherd")*  
*Alex and Ayesha Williams (on behalf of Theo Williams)*  
*Heather Carter (also on behalf of Scott Carter)*

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" – *Laurel Tubman*

Prayers of the People – *Led by the Right Reverend Peter Fenty*

Bishop: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Bishop: May all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection die to sin and rise to newness of life, and may we, with him, pass through the grave and gate of death to our joyful resurrection.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Bishop: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Bishop: Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Bishop: Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care. We pray especially today for all of Thelma's family: her husband Covey, her children Scott and Heather; her grandchildren: Damian, Shaquille, Jady, Adrian, Joshua, Josiah, and Hailey; her great-grandchildren Kallum and Zain; her siblings Peggy, Victor, Marcia, Sylvia and Fay; that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Bishop: Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love, as Thelma is reunited with Roy, Eileen, Donté and all her departed loved ones.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Bishop: Grant us grace to entrust Thelma to your never-failing love which sustained her in this life. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, and remember her according to the favour you bear for your people.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Bishop: Joining our prayers into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Benediction

Priest: Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your beloved child Thelma. Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a servant 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.

All: **Amen.**



## The Commendation

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

**You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all; 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 servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Bishop: Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant Thelma. Acknowledge, we pray, 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.

People: **Amen.**

Deacon: Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord.

People: **And let light perpetual shine upon her.**

Priest: May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People: **Amen.**

*At the end of the next hymn, the funeral directors will come forward to escort the casket from the church.*

Hymn: “The Strife is O’er”

The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions has dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

On the third morn, he rose again,  
Glorious in majesty to reign  
O let us swell the joyful strain. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,  
from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
that we may live and sing to thee. Alleluia!



Recessional: Nunc Dimittis – *Choir of St. John's*

*As the Nunc Dimittis is being sung, the casket will be escorted from the nave, with the pall bearers walking behind, and the family following.*

*Please bring Order of Service with you  
for the graveside hymn.*

Postlude Music

## Burial Prayers

My heart therefore is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. *Psalm 16:9*

He who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit. *Romans 8:11*

Everyone the Father gives to me, will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. *John 6:37*

Priest: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through Our Lord Jesus Christ we commend to Almighty God, our beloved sister in Christ, Thelma, and we commit her body to the ground + earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her, and give her peace.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, help you to do his will, working in you, that which is pleasing in his sight. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

## **It Is Well with My Soul**

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."  
*It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.  
*It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.*

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
*It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.*

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.  
*It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Priest: Let us go in peace, to cherish those we love, and to serve  
those in need, in memory of Thelma and in honour of our  
Lord Jesus.

All: **Thanks be to God**

*Mourners may place a flower on the casket  
as a final tribute.*



*Thank you for your presence today  
and for the support shown to Thelma's Family  
over these difficult days.*

*You are invited to a reception in the Church Hall.  
Washrooms are available in the Hall and  
outside the office area.*





***Pallbearers***

Damian Carter      Adrian Carter  
Jadyn Francis      Joshua Smith  
Kevin Brathwaite      Gerry Small  
Victor Williams

***Clergy***

The Right Reverend Peter Fenty  
*Bishop Suffragan, Toronto (retired)*

The Reverend Daniel Brereton  
*Incumbent, St. John the Baptist*

The Reverend Dr. James Leatch  
*Deacon, St. John the Baptist*

***Musician***

Surinder Mundra  
*Director of Music, St. John the Baptist*

***Soloists***

Laurel Tubman, Anthony Fauré

***Crucifer***

Susan Finlay

*Thank you to members of St. John's Choir  
for their presence today.*





“Throughout my life there has been this awareness of God’s presence, a loving presence that sustained me in all circumstances.

Therefore, I am deeply and humbly grateful for all the blessings he has bestowed on me: my parents, my dear husband, my children and grandchildren, my siblings, in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins, and my beloved church, with all my brothers and sisters in Christ.

What a cherished life I have had. What a beautiful life I still have to celebrate! Thank you, Lord! Thank you!”

*~ Thelma Carter, on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

