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*A Service Celebrating the Life of*  
***Katherine Ann Sohnn Chester***



**June 30, 1946 to December 30, 2025**

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

*January 24, 2025  
St. George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale, Maryland*

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## Katherine Ann Sohnn Chester

Katherine Ann Sohnn Chester passed peacefully at home on December 30, 2025. She was born June 30, 1946, to Cecelia and Leonard “Bill” Sohnn. A graduate of West Canada Valley High School, Kay earned a Bachelor’s Degree at SUNY Oneonta. It was there that she met her beloved husband, Thomas, whom she married in 1968.

After college, Kay began teaching for Whitesboro Central Schools (WCS), where she taught English for over 30 years before retiring. After retiring from WCS, she was an instructor at Mohonk Valley Community College (MVCC). In addition to her work at WCS and MVCC, she was an instructor in the New York State United Teachers Effective Teaching program and served as faculty in a number of education programs. She was active in the Whitesboro Teachers Association, serving as president, and was a founder of the MVCC Adjuncts union. Kay was fiercely proud of her union work, and her portion of the fight for teachers' rights and equal pay for women.

Outside the classroom, Kay was an avid reader, a book club member, a theater-goer, a film aficionado, a jazz lover, and a life-long learner who was always curious about other people. She enjoyed travelling with her husband, attending baseball games, jazz festivals, and film festivals around the world, as well as trips to Paris, Russia, and southern Africa.

She is survived by her daughter, Evelyn Chester, and her son-in-law, Timothy Obenshain; her sisters Barbara and Rebecca; as well as siblings-in-law, nieces, nephews, and many beloved friends. She was predeceased by her parents, her sister Josephine, her brother William, and her husband Tom.

Kay chose to donate her remains to science for the instruction of others, as a way to reflect her life’s work as a teacher.

# In Thanksgiving for Kay Chester

## Prelude

**Welcome** The Rev. Connie Reinhardt, Rector

## Opening Hymn: LEVAS #189 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960). Music: William M. Runyan (1870-1957) © 1923 Renewal 1951 Harper Publishing Co.  
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Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, There is no shad-ow of  
Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, Sun, moon and stars in their  
Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thine own dear pres-ence to  
turn-ing with thee; Thou chang-est not, thy com-pas-sions, they fail not,  
cours-es a-bove, Join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness,  
cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row.  
As thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
To thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love. Great is thy faith-ful-ness!  
Bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!  
Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have  
need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed, Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord un-to me!

## Opening Anthem

I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord.  
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.  
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last will stand upon the earth;  
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God, whom I shall see and my eyes behold,  
who is my friend and not a stranger.  
We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.  
If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.  
Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labor.

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray together: **O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Kay, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Kay's family and friends 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.**

*The people may be seated.*

## **A Reading from the Book of Ruth**

### **Ruth 1:6-11b; 14-18**

Ruth started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you,  
to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people  
and your God my God.  
Where you die, I will die,  
and there will I be buried.  
May the Lord do thus to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

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

*The psalm is read responsively, with the people responding with the verses in **bold**.*

## Psalm 139:1-11

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

**you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places

**and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

**but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

You press upon me behind and before

**and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

**it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

Where can I go then from your Spirit?

**where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

**if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

If I take the wings of the morning

**and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

Even there your hand will lead me

**and your right hand hold me fast.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,

**and the light around me turn to night,"**

Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;

**darkness and light to you are both alike.**

## A Reading from the First Epistle of John

### 1 John 3: 1-2

See what love that God has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

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

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

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

### John 20:11-18

Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Homily**     *The Rev. Connie Reinhardt*

*After the homily all stand as able as the Celebrant says:*

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, God's 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 Prayers of the People**

God our Creator, in the assurance of your mercy, in thanksgiving for the life of your servant Kay, and in confident expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we pray saying, Holy One, hear our prayer.

Holy God, your will for us is abundant life; receive Kay into the fullness of life in your presence.  
**Holy One, hear our prayer.**

God of new life, grant that, increasing in the knowledge and love of you, Kay may go from strength to strength in a new life of perfect service, we pray. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you know the thoughts of our hearts and our search for faith; shed the brightness of your light on Kay, who also sought understanding, we pray. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

God who is beyond our knowing, you are greater than all our ideas and images of you; draw Kay into the mystery of your being, we pray. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we know you as perfect mercy and compassion; welcome Kay in the grace of your love, we pray. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we praise you as the giver of life. We remember and pray for all of Kay's family and friends, that they may know the consolation of your love, and may hold Kay in their love all the days of their lives, we pray. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

God of our beginning and our end, the Church commends all who die to the care of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit; and so we commend Kay to you, giving thanks for the gift of her life. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* O God, we entrust Kay and all those we love to your love and care, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

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

**People:** And also with you.

## Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

*If you would like to make a donation to the church in memory of Kay, you can give electronically by texting\* stgeodragon to 73256, using a web browser to go to [onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/give](http://onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/give), or donate via Zelle to [donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org](mailto:donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org). Baskets are available at the back of the church for cash or checks. (\*For texts, message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.)*

## Offertory Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #671 *Amazing Grace*

Words: stanzas 1-4 John Newton (1725-1807) stanza 5 from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790*' compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus  
Music: *New Britain CM Virginia Harmony, 1831*. Adapted by Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921). Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;  
The Lord has pro-mised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;  
Through man-y dan-gers, toils, and snares, I have al-read-y come;  
When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin-ing as the sun,



I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
how pre-cious did that grace ap-pear the hour I first be-lieved!  
he will my shield and por-tion be as long as life en-dures.  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be-gun.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

*The Celebrant proceeds:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus: Hymnal 1982 S 130 *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Setting from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828) Arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
hea-ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho-  
- san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless'd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-  
- san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues:*

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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,  
**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 all your children; 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 God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray,

**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 bread is broken. After a time of silence, all sing together*

### **Fraction Anthem: Gather #247 *May We Be One***

Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952) Music: Gary Daigle (b. 1957). © 1993 G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

When we eat this bread and drink this cup we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus.

So as we share this feast may we be come, heal-ing and light and peace. May we be one.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **The Communion**

*Wherever you are in your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, you are welcome to receive the bread and wine. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.*

*If you would like to come up for a blessing rather than the bread and wine, simply cross your arms to your shoulders to indicate this to the priest.*

*Please wait in your seat until an usher has directed you to go forward. Once you have received, please exit the Sanctuary following the directions of the ushers. If you receive the wine, please drop your cup into the bin at the door after you consume it.*

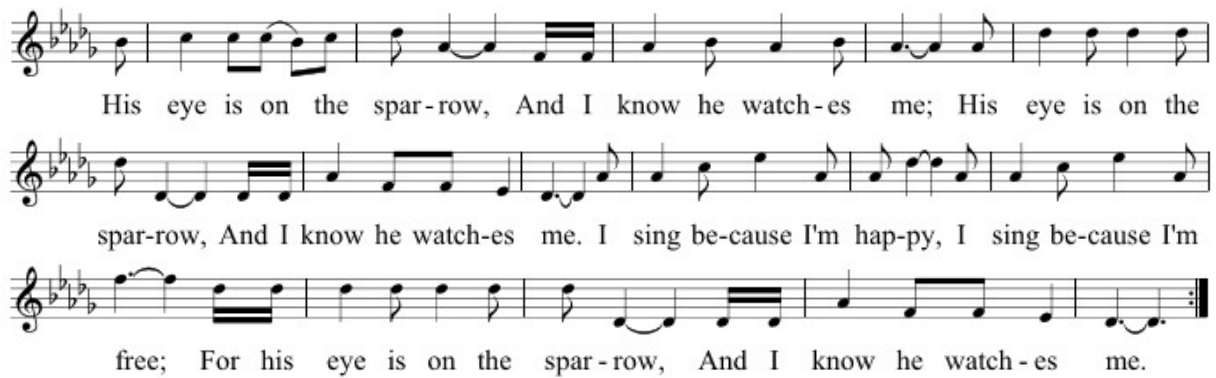
### **Communion Hymn: Levas #191 *His Eye Is on the Sparrow***

Words: Civilla D. Martin (1860-1948) Music: Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932) arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)  
Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Why should I feel dis - cour - aged, Why should the shad - ows come,  
"Let not your heart be trou - bled," His ten - der word I hear  
When ev - er I am tempt - ed, When ev - er clouds a - rise,

Why should my heart be lone - ly, And long for heav'n and home;  
And rest - ing on His good - ness, I lose my doubts and fears,  
When songs give place to sigh - ing, When hope with - in me dies,

When Je - sus is my por - tion? My con - stant friend is He;  
Though by the path He lead - eth, But one step I may see;  
I draw the close - er to Him, From care he sets me free;



His eye is on the spar-row, And I know he watch-es me; His eye is on the spar-row, And I know he watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free; For his eye is on the spar-row, And I know he watch-es me.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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.**

*All stand as able for the Commendation*

## The Commendation

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Kay 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 us, 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 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 Kay. 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 Blessing

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 with you now remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #287 *For All the Saints* verses 1-2, 7-8

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897). Music *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who thee by faith be -  
Thou wast their rock, their for - tress and their might; thou Lord, their Cap - tain

- fore the world con - fessed, thy Name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blessed.  
in the well - fought fight; thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glo - rious day; the saints tri - umph - ant  
From earth's wide bounds, from o - ceans far - thest coast, through gates of pearl streams

rise in bright ar - ray; the King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.  
in the count - less host, sing - ing to Fa - ther Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## Postlude

*During the postlude, all are invited to a reception in the parish hall.*

### **Participants in the Service**

Readers

*Karen Horrocks, Terry Doyle, Zulma Santiago*

Lay Eucharistic Minister

*Jocelyn Tidwell*

Ushers

*Zulma Santiago, Madison Brady, Rosa Soliz, Betty White*

Flowers

*Nell Sydavar*

Tech

*Michael Mangiapane, Roy Peterson, Karen Sharp*

Pianist

*Ruslan Bondar*

Celebrant

*The Rev. Connie Reinhardt*