
*A Service Celebrating the Life of
Jeffrey Howard Williams*



August 31, 1954 to April 9, 2021

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

May 8, 2021

St. George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale, Maryland

Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to have you here this morning to celebrate the life of Jeffrey Williams, beloved friend, mentor, teacher, leader, and longtime member of St. George's.

Prelude: Deep River, arr. Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

Opening Music: Hymnal 1982 #208 The Strife is O'er

Words: Latin tr Francis Pott. Music: *Victory* Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, arr William Henry Monk. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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



The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to - ry of life is
The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their le - gions hath dis -
The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es glo - rious from the



won; the song of tri - umph has be - gun. Al-le - lu - ia!
- persed: let shout of ho - ly joy out-burst. Al-le - lu - ia!
dead; all glo - ry to our ris - en Head! Al-le - lu - ia!

Opening Sentences

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 thy servant Jeffrey, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

A Lesson from the Revelation to John - 21:2-7 *Read by Jay Tobias*

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with us, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to those who thirst. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 *Read by Ingrid Charlton*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills;
from whence cometh my help?
My help cometh even from the LORD,
who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved,
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD himself is thy keeper;
the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand;
So that the sun shall not burn by day,
neither the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil;
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The LORD shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 23 *Led by Josephine Ross*

**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 for ever.**

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.

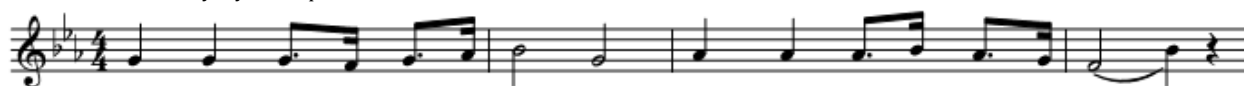
The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Homily The Rev. Connie Reinhardt

Hymn: LEVAS # 141 *Shall We Gather at the River*

Words and Music: Robert Lowery. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Shall we gath - er at the riv - er where bright ang - el feet have trod;
On the mar - gins of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray
Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - ry bur - den down;
Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease.



With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
Grace our Spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful - riv - er



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

Celebrant: 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 *Led by Brother Ed Munro, BSG*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. *Amen.*

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

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

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. *Amen.*

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy loving care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. *Amen.*

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. *Amen.*

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. *Amen.*

Grant us grace to entrust Jeffrey to thy never-failing love; receiver him into the arms of thy mercy, and remember him according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. *Amen.*

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Peace


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

People: **And also with you.**




Offertory Hymn: LEVAS #188 *It is Well With My Soul*


Words: Horatio Spafford. Music: Philip P. Bliss. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
Though sa - tan should buf - fet though tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
My sin oh the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought My sin not in
And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled



sea bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, thou hast tdaught me to
- sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
part but the whole Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -



say, It is well, it is well with my soul. It is well
- tate, And has shed His own blood for my soul.
more, Praise the Lord praise the Lord, O my soul!
- scnd, "E - ven so" it is well with my soul.



with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

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:

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.**

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 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 God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

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.

Communion Hymn: LEVAS #181 *Amazing Grace*

Words: John Newton and John Rees. Music: *New Britain, CM, Virginia Harmony*. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.
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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.

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.

The Commendation

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

Thou only art 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 Jeffrey with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Jeffrey. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine 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.*

The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God, which passeth 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 amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Recessional Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #287 For All the Saints

Words: William Walsham How. Music: *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who thee by
Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might; thou, Lord, their
O may thy soldiers faithful true, and bold, fight as the
But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day; the saints tri-
From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of



faith before the world confessed, thy Name, O Jesus, be forth-
Captain in the well-fought fight; thou, in the darkness drear, the
saints who nobly fought of old, and win with them, the vic-tor's
- umph - ant rise in bright ar - ray; the King of glo - ry pass - es
pearl streams in the count - less host, sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and



- ev - er blessed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
one true Light. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
on his way. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Ho - ly Ghost: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Postlude: For All the Saints, arr. Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)

Please join us on Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 pm via Zoom for sharing memories of Jeffrey and continuing to celebrate his life. The link can be found on the St. George's web site:

www.stgeorgesglennedale.org/calendar



Jeffrey Howard Williams

Jeffrey Howard Williams born August 31st, 1954 in Washington D.C. and he transitioned April 9th, 2020. He grew up in the Brentwood section Of NE Washington, D.C. Jeffrey was a product of the DC Public schools having attended Langley Elementary, Taft Junior High, and graduated from McKinley Technical High School. As a senior at Mckinley he commanded the Cadet ROTC regiment as a colonel. He was a proud alumnus of Drake University. He was a lifelong Episcopalian, poet, and custom picture framer.

Jeffrey, fondly referred to as Jeff, by college friends LaVerne Armstrong and Ellenmaria Wilcock, cherished his time and memories of his life at Drake University. Jeff arrived at Drake in 1972 as a freshman Business major. He completed his undergraduate studies, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He continued his education spending an additional year at Drake to acquire a Master's Degree in Business Administration. In a separate ceremony, following his undergraduate graduation, Jeff was inducted into the Air Force ROTC graduate program. Beyond the education received, Jeff made lifelong friends and acquired fraternity brothers as a Kappa (Kappa Alpha Psi). Upon completion of his studies, Jeff entered the Air Force to meet his ROTC commitment.

Although a quiet, thoughtful young man, who appeared to be mostly serious minded, many would say that Jeff kept to himself. However, with those who were in his circle of friends, Jeff was fun-loving, friendly, and a great and loyal friend. You could find him in playful snow fights, pulling pranks, snapping photos with his trusty Nikon, caring for and adding to his plant collection or just hanging out having fun with his frat brothers.

Jeff was very active in alumni affairs and activities at Drake. He attended many of the annual events and the events held by the African-American Student Organization. Jeff's experience and memories from Drake University led him to establish a scholarship for African-American students majoring in business administration with required grade point average. This scholarship was named in memory of his parents, Thelma and John Williams.

During his military career, one highlight was his time spent in the missile silo in Great Falls, MT. Upon completion of his continuous days of duty in the "hole", a call to friends was often in order to break the effects of the monotonous time spent there. Jeff served in the military beyond his commitment time, completing a successful career in the Air Force. He was dedicated during his time in military service but was happy to retire as a Major and pursue other interests.

One of Jeff's passionate interests was poetry and he was no stranger to recognition for his abilities. His poem, Mission Accomplished resides on permanent display at the Air Force's Strategic Air Command Museum in Nebraska. Jeff shared hopeful poetic messages delivered through public speaking engagements and his six published books of poetry (*From the Heart* 1988, *Thoughts of Mind* 1988 and 2nd Edition 1990, *When the Heart Speaks* 2000, *Selections From the Heart* 2003, *Exploring the Mind* 2007, *Reflections of the Heart* +2017). Jeffrey participated in poetry readings and wrote poems for friends and relatives for special occasions. His work has been used internationally in numerous military and civilian ceremonies and publications. Jeff was also recognized for his poetic talents both here in the U.S. and internationally, being selected as the 1999 Poet of the Year by the International Society of Poets. He also received awards in 2015 and 2016 from the United Poets Laureate International.

Jeffrey's words in poetry:

Life is . . .

Passing at a snail's pace with anticipation
Dreaming with high hopes of endless adventure
Awakening each morning with keen expectations
Falling asleep each evening with deep gratitude
Knowing faith is the foundation that endures all challenges.

A deeply spiritual man, Jeffrey was baptized and confirmed in his family church, Calvary Episcopal Church, of Washington, DC. In every place he lived, Jeffrey contributed significantly to his Episcopal church community. He served as a youth advisor, adult formation instructor, and vestry member in his previous parishes, before resettling in Mitchellville, Maryland and joining St. George's Episcopal Church in Glenn Dale.

Though he steadfastly (and humorously) declined to serve on the Vestry of St. George's, Jeffrey had a deep impact on St. George's in a variety of ways. His numerous contributions to the St. George's community included co-chairing the search committee for a new rector, assisting with the artistic design of the stained glass windows and serving in lay leadership positions on the merger exploration and visioning committees. Jeffrey was a passionate advocate for St. George's participation in conversations on race, racism, and racial reconciliation, and up until his stroke he served on the Repairing the Breach leadership committee that brought the Sacred Ground conversation on race and racism to St. George's.

One could count on finding Jeffrey at almost every 8:00 am Sunday service, usually serving as a reader or Lay Eucharistic minister as well as offering his insights as a lay preacher. He was especially pleased when he was able to lead Morning Prayer on the occasional Sunday morning! He graduated from the EfM (Education for Ministry) program from the School of Theology from Sewanee University while at St. Georges, and was a mainstay in attending as well as leading Sunday adult education programs. Jeffrey's philanthropic endeavors combined with his artistic pursuits. As a poet and custom picture framer, he graced many a silent auction with donations of his time and talent.

Jeffrey's contributions to the Episcopal Church included serving on the board of Collington Episcopal Life Care, a retirement community in Mitchellville Md.

In February 2020, Jeffrey suffered a stroke which impaired his left side. He regained his speech, and was working to continue his rehabilitation when he was called home.

Jeffrey was preceded in death by his life partner, Jennifer Moorehead; his brother, Juan McGuffin Williams; his mother, Thelma McGuffin Williams; and his father, John Howard Williams. He leaves behind a loving group of friends and relatives.

Participants in Today's Service

Readers

Jay Tobias
Ingrid Charlton
Josephine Ross
Brother Ed Munro

Acolytes

Emily Charlton
Nia Charlton

Ushers

Roy Peterson
Terry Lawlah
Zulma Santiago

Technical Support

Terry Doyle
James Hsu
Michael Mangiapane
Karen Sharp

Flowers

Nell Sydavar

Music Director

Dr. Joshua Fishbein

Singers

Emma Hadley
Ed Neuschler
Helen Rowe
Lee Rowe
Michael Mangiapane

Vestry Persons on Duty

Peter Cooper
Ames Perry

Celebrant

The Rev. Connie Reinhardt

With deep and abiding thanks to Joann Prosser and David Toatley