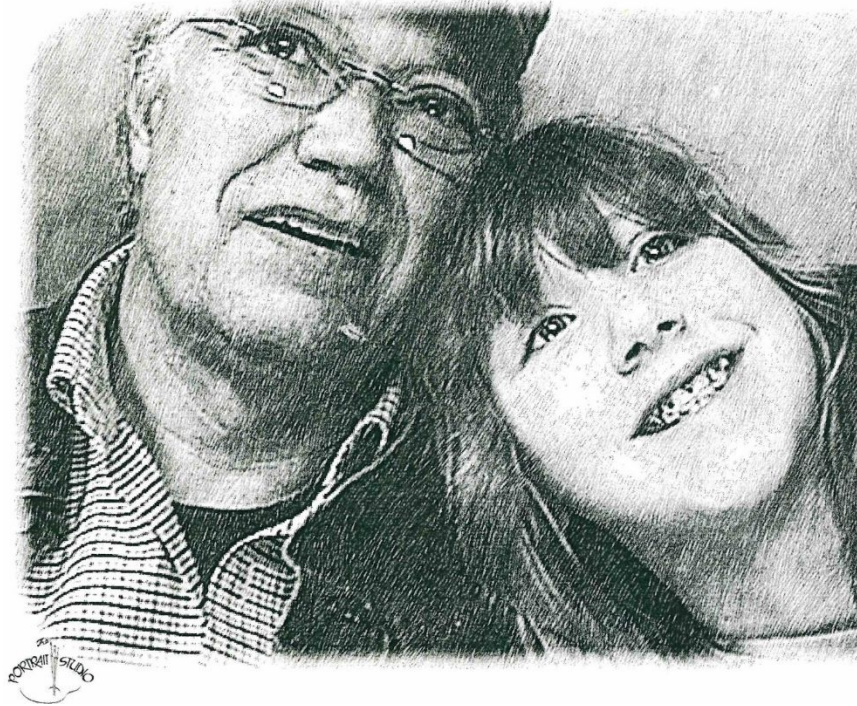

A Service Celebrating the Life of
Arnold Godwin Sparks III



July 30, 1951 to September 12, 2022

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

November 5, 2022
St. George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale, Maryland

In Thanksgiving for Arnold Sparks

Prelude: *Hey Jude*

Please stand as you are able at the sound of the bell.

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 for myself and my eyes behold,
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For 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 labors.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray together: **O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Arnold. 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.**

The Celebrant then says

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Ames, Gabrielle, and their family and friends in their grief. Surround them in 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.**

A Reading from the Gospel of John 6:1-6

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-8 *The psalm is read responsively*

I will give thanks to the Lord at all times:

God's praise will always be on my lips.

My soul will glory in the Lord:

the humble will hear and be glad.

O praise the Lord with me

Let us exalt God's name together.

I sought your help O Lord and you answered me:

and freed me from all my fears.

Look towards the Most High, and be radiant with light:

And your faces will not be ashamed.

Your angel O Lord keeps guard around those who fear you:

to rescue them in time of danger.

Taste and see how gracious the Lord is:

happy are those who find refuge in the Most High.

Remembrances from Meg Madden and Shawn Sparks

A reading from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Remembrances from Roxy Allison-Holman and Lisa Walsh

Reading – Kyle Parker

In the Garden sung by Gabrielle Sparks

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

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

Luke 5: 29-32

Then Levi gave a large dinner at his home for Jesus. Everybody was there, tax collectors and other disreputable characters as guests at the dinner. The Pharisees and scholars of the law came to Jesus' disciples greatly offended. "What is he doing eating and drinking with misfits and 'sinners'?"

Jesus heard about it and asked them, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders, an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out."

The Gospel of the Lord **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Homily The Rev. Connie Reinhardt

After the Homily, the Celebrant invites all to stand as able and 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, who has knit together your people in one communion and fellowship, in the body of your son Christ our Lord: Grant to your whole church in paradise and on earth your light and your peace. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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 Christ to our joyful resurrection. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant us grace to entrust Arnold to your never-failing love; receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor which you have for your people. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly reign. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: God of all, we pray to you for Sparks 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

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

People: And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: LEVAS #154 *Taste and See*

Words: Psalm 34. Music: James E. Moore, Jr. © 1992 G.I.A. Publications. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the



good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.



I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall
Glo - ri fy the Lord with me. To - geth er let us
Wor - ship the Lord all you peo ple. You'll want for



al ways be on my lips; my soul shall glo ry in the
all praise his name. I called the Lord and he an - swered
noth - ing if you ask Taste and see that God is



Lord; for he has been so good to me.
me; from all my trou bles he set me free.
good; in him we need put all our trust.

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 continues

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.

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 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 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 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, 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 grape juice or wine, please drop your cup into the recycling bin at the door after you consume it. Note that hand sanitizer is available as you exit. Please follow the arrows to go through the narthex (hallway) and back into the Sanctuary and on to your seat.

Communion Anthem - In Remembrance of Me

Communion Hymn: LEVAS #181 *Amazing Grace*

Words: stanzas 1-4 John Newton (1725-1807) stanza 5 attr. John Rees (c 1859)

Music: *New Britain CM Virginia Harmony*, 1831 John Barnard (b. 1948) © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. 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.

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 Arnold 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 Arnold. 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.**

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Dismissal Hymn: The Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*

All are invited to a reception in Miller Hall following the service.

*The family of Arnold Sparks is grateful to everyone who participated in this service.
Special gratitude is expressed for Ria Yang and members of the choir,
for Nell Sydavar for flower arrangements,
and for Luella Tabor for organizing our reception.*