
*A Service Celebrating the Life of
Nilda Edith Salaman-Dennis*



December 18, 1959 to September 17, 2020

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

October 3, 2020 ~ St. George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale, Maryland

In Thanksgiving for Nilda Dennis

Prelude *Amazing Grace ~ recording by Gloria Franchi*

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 of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Nilda. 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 those 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.**

Celebrant: Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Robert and with all of Nilda'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.**

A Lesson from the Book of Proverbs ~ Read by Andrea Salaman

Proverbs 31: 10-31

A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.
She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.
She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.

She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
'Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.'
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

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

A Lesson from the Gospel of John ~ *Read by Cecily Dennis*

John 14:1-6 '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.**

Personal Reflections

Dr. Karen Williams

Dr. Colletta Richards-Claggett

José Torres

Robert H. Dennis III

Hymn *It is Well with my Soul ~ recording by the 3 Tenors*

Life Sketch ~ *Read by Brenda Torres Wells*

Homily *The Rev. Connie Reinhardt, Rector of George's Episcopal Church*

Following the homily, all are invited to stand as you are able for the Prayers

The Prayers

We pray to God our Creator saying, Holy One, hear our prayer.

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

Give us grace to entrust Nilda to your never-failing love, knowing that you can do more for her than we can ask or imagine. We pray, saying **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Grant that, increasing in the knowledge and love of you, she may go from strength to strength in a new life of perfect service in Christ. We pray, saying **Holy One, 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. We pray, saying **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 Nilda to you, giving thanks for the gift of her life, of the love she shared, and the light she gave to others.

We pray, saying **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of all, we pray to you for Nilda and for all those whom we love but see no longer.

Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

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.

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.*

The Lord's Prayer

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 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: *Blessed Assurance* ~ recording by Gladys Knight

The 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 your servant Nilda 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 Nilda 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 Nilda. 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 Dismissal

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

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

The Dismissal Hymn: Handel’s *Dead March in Saul*



The Family of Dr. Nilda Edith Salaman-Dennis would like to thank all those who have offered support with calls, cards and texts, the Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home for taking care of the postmortem needs, Rector Connie Reinhardt and the St. Georges Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale, MD, for their support at this difficult time.