

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving  
For the life of Rehtaeh Anne Parsons

“Rest eternal grant unto her O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her”

**Celebrant: The Rev. John K. Morrell,**  
Rector St. Mark’s

**Assistants: The Rev. Jim Purchase,**  
Honorary Assistant St. Mark’s

**The Rev. Gordon Neish,**  
Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Clements

**The Rev. Dianne Parker,**  
Former Archdeacon Chebucto Region

**Organist and Choir Director: Mr. Erin Hansen**

**Flautist: Heather Topping**

*The Service is found in the green BOOK OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICES  
and the hymns may be found in the Blue COMMON PRAISE*

**The Gathering of the Community**

The Funeral Sentences

**Hymn - All Creatures of our God and King**

Welcome

Psalm 121 *“My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth”*

Read by Carolyn Vienneau

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you;

the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,

from this time forth for evermore.

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**The Collecting Prayer**

The celebrant shall say, The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy  
you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.

Be our refuge and our strength to lift us from the darkness of grief  
to the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us, conquered death  
and by rising again, restored life.

May we then go forward eagerly to meet him, and after our life  
on earth, be reunited with our brothers and sisters  
where every tear will be wiped away.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**Hymn - In the Garden**

Remarks by the family: Mary Ann Parsons and Shari Canning

Remarks by student friends: Jenna Campbell and Bryony Jollimore

**The Proclamation of the Word**

New Testament Reading: I Corinthians 15:51-57

*“Death is swallowed up in victory”* read by the Rev. Gordon Neish

**Hymn - The Lord’s My Shepherd**

The Gospel Matthew 11:33-39, 16:1-7 *“He has risen, he is not here”*

read by the Rev. Dianne Parker

Homily: The Rev. John Morrell

Choir Anthem: *In Memoriam*

**The Apostle’s Creed**

Celebrant I believe in God,

**All: the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

*Prayers of the People lead by the Rev. Jim Purchase*

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

**People: Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: 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.

**People: Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: Grant us grace to entrust Rehtaeh 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*

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Hymn - Just As I Am

*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.**

*The celebrant says,*

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,  
we commend your servant Rehtaeh Anne  
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. Amen.

*The Blessing*

May God the father, who created you,  
enfold you in his comforting arms.  
May God the Son, who redeemed you,  
walk with you in your grief.  
May God the Spirit, who gave you life,  
surround you with his presence. ....

*The Dismissal*

Leader: The eternal God is your dwelling place,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms.  
**People: Blessed is the Lord, our strength and our salvation.**

Recessional Hymn - Make me a Channel of Your Peace