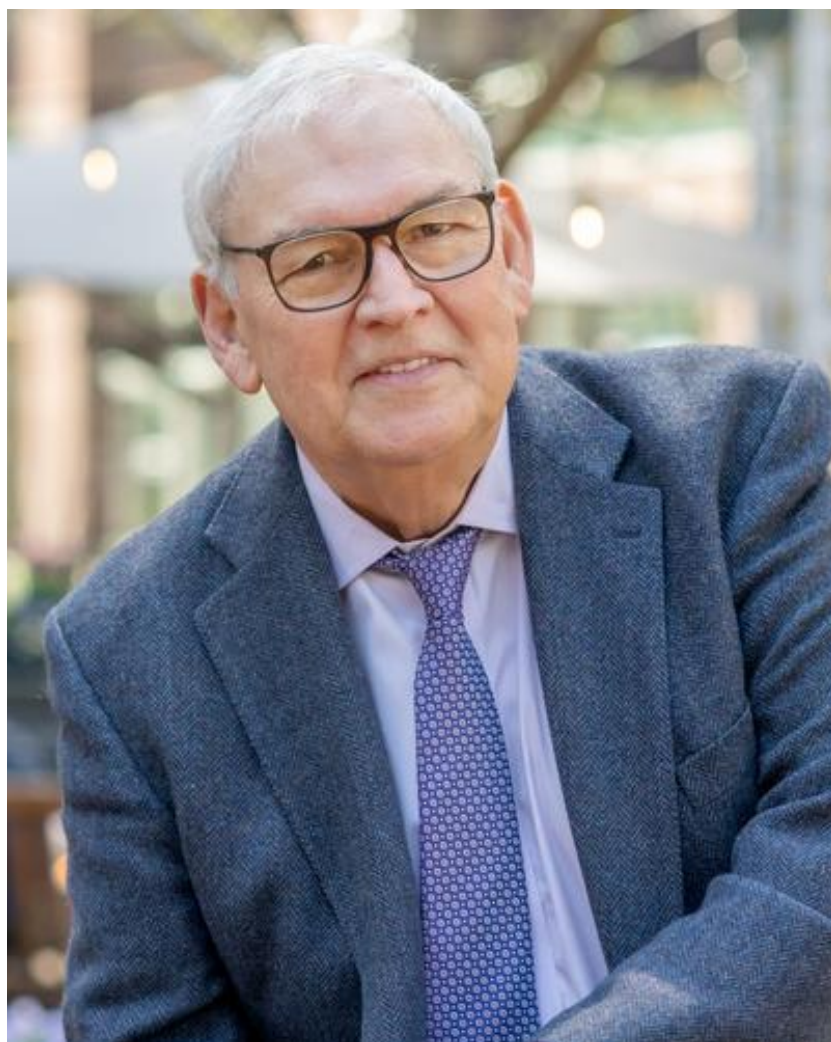


**In celebration of the life of**  
**Vernon Lucius Gibson**

**October 26, 1949 – September 9, 2024**



**Monday, September 16, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
17 Church Street  
Hanover, Massachusetts

*Celebrant:*

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;  
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;  
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,  
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;  
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;  
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

For if we live, we live unto the Lord.

and if we die, we die unto the Lord.

Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;  
even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

### COLLECT

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

**O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Vernon, 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.**

**OPENING SONG: *Somewhere Over the Rainbow - by Harold Arlen & E.Y. "yip" Harburg; Arranged by Brooks Holmes***

played by Jonathan Wessler and Brooks Holmes

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING** Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Read by John Benedetto

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

**PSALM 139:1-11** (read responsively)

Led by Kelly Gibson

O LORD, thou hast searched me out, and known me.

**Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; thou understandest my thoughts long before.**

Thou art about my path, and about my bed, and art acquainted with all my ways.

**For lo, there is not a word in my tongue, but thou, O LORD, knowest it altogether.**

Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me; I cannot attain unto it.**

Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit? or whither shall I go then from thy presence?

**If I climb up into heaven, thou art there; if I go down to hell, thou art there also.**

If I take the wings of the morning, and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;

**Even there also shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.**

If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me, then shall my night be turned to day.

**Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee,**

but the night is as clear as day; the darkness and light to thee are both alike.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Revelation 21:2-7

Read by Amanda Barker

A Reading from the Book of Revelations

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

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

**PSALM 23** (read responsively)

Led by David Lawrence

The LORD is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

**He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.**

He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth 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 comfort me.**

**Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me; thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.**

Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**SONG: *Danny Boy - by Frederic E. Weatherly; Traditional Irish folk Melody; Arranged by Brooks Holmes***

played by Jonathan Wessler and Brooks Holmes

**REMEMBRANCES**

offered by Vernon's children, Kelly Lawrence and Matthew Gibson

**GOSPEL READING** John 14:1-6

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

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

“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. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**HOMILY**

The Reverend Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Esq.

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was  
buried. He descended to the dead. The third day he rose again. He ascended into  
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, 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**

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 fatherly 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 Vernon to thy never-failing love; receive 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*  
*People*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE** Walk in Love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant*  
*People*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and doth comfort us with the blessed hope of everlasting life; for to thy faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body doth lie in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

## SANCTUS

### *Holy, holy, holy (Schubert/Proulx) (S 130)*

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 - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

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

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

### **FRACTION ANTHEM *Lamb of God Agnus Dei (Schubert) (S 164)***

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

## INVITATION

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on God in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome at God's table. Please let the celebrant know if you need a gluten free wafer. If you wish a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest.*

**COMMUNION:** The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

## COMMUNION HYMN *Be Not Afraid (WLP 811)*

*Verse 1*



1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wan-der far in safe-ty though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der-stand. You shall see the face of God and live.



*Refrain*

Be not a - fraid. I go be - fore you al - ways.  
Come, fol - low me, and I will give you

*Verse 2*

rest. 2. If you  
pass through rag - ing wa - ters in the sea, you shall not  
drown, If you walk a - mid the burn - ing flames, you shall not be  
harmed. If you stand be - fore the pow'r of hell and  
death is at your side, know that I am with you through it

*To refrain Verse 3*

all. 3. Bless - ed are your poor, for the  
king - dom shall be theirs. Blest are you that  
weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh. And if  
wick - ed men in - sult and hate you all be - cause of me,  
bless - ed, bless - ed are you!

*Final Refrain*

Be not a - fraid. I go be - fore you al - ways.  
Come, fol - low me, and I will give you

*Nessun dorma by Puccini*

Sung by soloist Ilhee Lee  
Accompanied by pianist Yeonjae Cho

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, we thank thee that in thy great love thou hast fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast given unto us a foretaste of thy heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be unto 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 thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### *The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost*

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

Read by Judi Swain

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

## BLESSING

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of God our creator, redeemer and sustainer be with you now and always.  
**Amen.**

## THE COMMENDATION

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

Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant, Vernon. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and Jesus the Christ. The blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN *Amazing grace! how sweet the sound (New Britain) (H 671)*

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.  
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

**Celebrant:**

The Reverend Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Esq.

**Crucifer:**

Jesse Avellino

**Organist:**

Jonathan Wessler

**Pianist:**

Yeonjae Cho

**Trumpeter:**

Brooks Holmes

**Soloist:**

Ilhee Lee

**Remembrances:**

Kelly Lawrence  
Matthew Gibson

**Readers:**

John Benedetto  
Amanda Barker  
Kelly Gibson  
David Lawrence  
Judi Swain