

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

BENJAMIN BRIDGES, JR., PH.D.

MAY 21, 1936 – MARCH 31, 2022

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Episcopal/Anglican

ZABRISKIE CHAPEL

3606 Seminary Road
Alexandria, Virginia

June 18, 2022



2:00 p.m.

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD, RITE II

Page numbers refer to the *red Book of Common Prayer*.

Numbered hymns can be found in *The Hymnal 1982*.

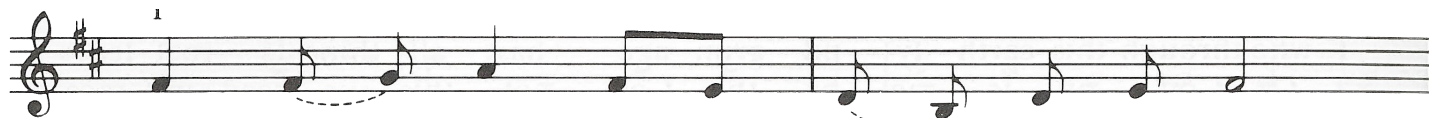
Prelude:

Pianist Harriet Duleep

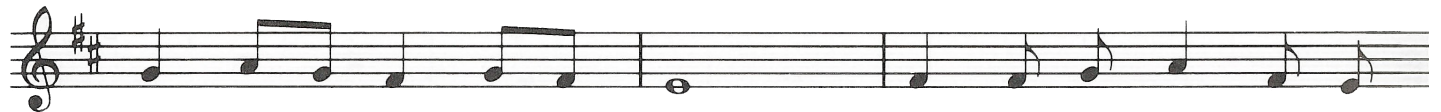
Opening Hymn 711: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God"

Seek Ye First

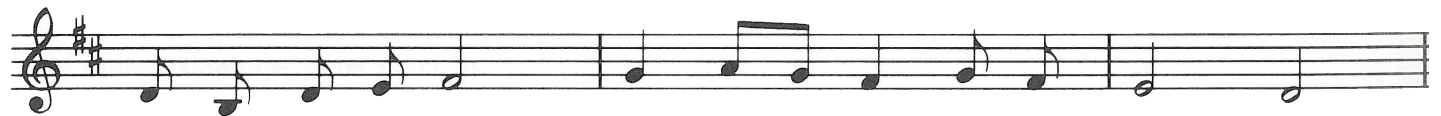
found in The Hymnal 1982



1 Seek ye — first the king - dom of God
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

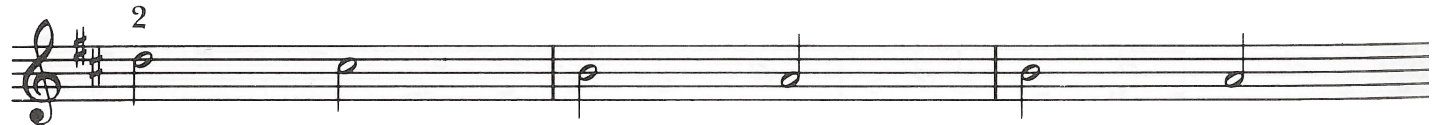


and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

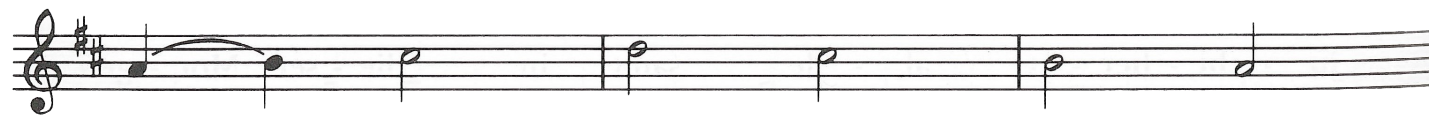


add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



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



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



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

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

All please stand while the following anthems are said. (Book of Common Prayer, page 491)

Opening Sentences:

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on
are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

Clergy: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Clergy: Let us pray.

Collect: O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Benjamin, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***



Collect:

read by Carter Cornick

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 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.

Collect:

read by Ted Widmayer

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Remembrances from Family and Friends: Mike Leonasio
Ann C. Bridges
Elizabeth Cornick
Keene Cornick

Hymn 671: "Amazing grace! how sweet the sound"

New Britain

The Homily: The Rev. Susan D. Parsons

The Prayers

For our brother, Benjamin, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Benjamin, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

The Celebrant concludes with the following collect:

Father of all, we pray for Benjamin, 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 COMMENDATION

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

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; 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.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Benjamin. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your 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

Clergy: Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People: *Thanks be to God*

Recessional Hymn 293: "I sing a song of the saints of God"

found in The Hymnal 1982

Grand Isle

Postlude: "When the Saints go marching in"

O When the Saints Go Marching In

Benjamin Bridges Jr: A Tribute

My Dad personified quiet strength; he was my rock. He was always there and somehow, crazy as it sounds, I thought he always would be. I know I am not alone in this belief.

Many of his qualities, if not most, he practiced silently: his reliability, perseverance, commitment, and integrity.

His joy of competition was the exception to this rule. He received his BA from Duke and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins. Both Durham and Baltimore are meccas of his favorite sports; his first basketball, and his second, lacrosse. When he was younger, he wanted to be a sports announcer and wrote the high school sports column for the Loudoun Times. It was no secret that he was fiercely competitive! He had an alter ego which emerged when coaching or watching sports. We sometimes referred to him as the Bobby Knight, (minus the violence) of the girls' recreation basketball league. He was renowned for his sideline refereeing and boisterous celebrations of a point scored!

Notwithstanding his passion for sports, he became an economist which I personally found fitting, since he was a modest man of few words. He had a gift for communicating in ways that were understandable, lending to his ability to lead, coach, and teach. His actions spoke for him.

If you wanted to know how he felt, you only needed to pay attention to what he did. I asked him once, shortly after my mother died, if he missed her since I hadn't heard him express his grief. His quick response was that he went to her grave nearly every week. My Dad literally and figuratively showed up! He never missed a single game my sister or I played in; neither did he miss one of his grandchildren's (Elizabeth and Keene) athletic events, band performances, or any other ceremony.

Lastly, another one of his admirable qualities and probably the one I respect most, is his honesty. He had enormous integrity-not afraid to speak truth to power, for which he sometimes paid the price. He told me that once in high school he gave a talk (to an organization I can't remember), criticizing Senator Joseph McCarthy when he was still wielding a great deal of influence. My father was severely rebuked by the attendees afterwards, but was undeterred, and of course eventually proven right. I literally never heard him lie or even embellish a story; decidedly un-southern! He lived by his principles.

I will always miss you, and always love you,

Puma

BENJAMIN BRIDGES, JR., PH.D.

Benjamin Bridges, Jr. passed away March 31, 2022 in Alexandria, Virginia. He was born in 1936, to the late Ben and Lillian Bridges of Leesburg.

Voted "most likely to succeed" by the class of 1954, he graduated from Leesburg High School, and attended Duke University. He played saxophone in the Blue Devil marching band for four years, graduating Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Ben earned his Ph.D. in Economics at John's Hopkins University in 1962, and was selected for the Wilson, Danforth, HB. Earhart, and Brookings Institution fellowships. Between 1962 and 1965 he taught at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Later in 1965, he began a 51-year, civil service career at the Social Security Administration, serving as a branch Chief and Division Director of Economic Research where he published, co-authored and edited papers that were foundational in forwarding the future of research for SSA. He loved his work as an economist almost as much as those he worked with over 5 decades.

Basketball was his first sports love with lacrosse his second. Following in his mother's footsteps as a girls' basketball coach, he coached recreational league basketball in Alexandria for over 40 years, starting with his daughters' teams and continuing straight through to coaching his granddaughter for four plus years and his grandson for two. It was a family affair with Puma and Ann serving as assistant coaches. From early 1970 through 2021 – over 50 years – he attended nearly every game his daughters and grandchildren ever played, from field hockey, to basketball, lacrosse, soccer– at all levels of competition. Ben was more than a coach and avid supporter, he also played pickup basketball himself, religiously, until he was 80.

Ben is survived by his daughters, Elizabeth Bridges Cornick and Ann Clark Bridges; his grandchildren, Elizabeth Macon Cornick and Benjamin Keene Cornick; and his sons-in-law, Carter Cornick and Ted Widmayer; in addition to Betsy Raymond, his companion over the last four years. His wife, Ruth Bridges predeceased him in 2014.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Saint Stephen's and Saint Agnes scholarship fund that Ben established in honor of Ruth Bridges. To donate online, visit www.icoh.net, and select “Worship Service Bulletins” under the worship tab to view this bulletin. Click on the hyperlinked logo below to go directly to the school’s donation page.



SERVING TODAY:

Officiant:

The Rev. Susan D. Parsons
Associate Rector
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Assisting Clergy:

The Rev. J. Bruce Steward
Chaplain, Memorial Chapel
Goodwin House Alexandria

Remembrances from the Family:

Mike Leonasio, former colleague
Ann C. Bridges, daughter
Elizabeth Cornick, granddaughter
Keene Cornick, grandson

Readers:

Carter Cornick, son-in-law
Ted Widmayer, son-in-law

Musician:

Harriet Duleep, piano

Ushers:

Keene Cornick, grandson
Chris McGee, granddaughter's partner

Altar Flower Arrangements:

Candy Levin
Linda Serabian
Immanuel Flower Guild



MISSION STATEMENT: Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition, striving to be in relationship with God and each other as Christ has taught us, actively attempting to sense and to serve God's plan with great love. We are guided by Mark 16:15: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel," to learn, discern, and proclaim the Good News by being active ministers in the various communities where we live and serve.

Parish Office

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