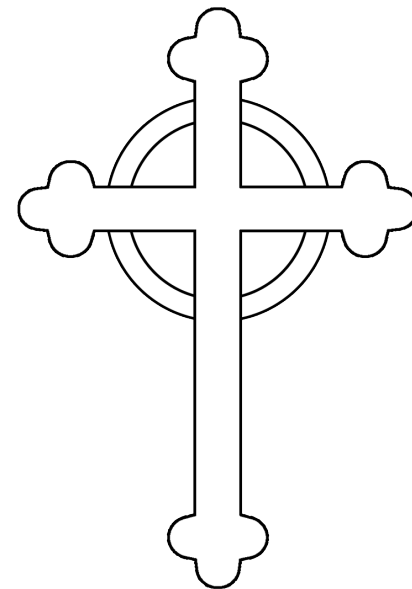


A Celebration
In Thanksgiving for the life of

Joan Dalziel Straw

November 26, 1951 – December 29, 2020



May 15, 2021, 11:00 am

Grove Cemetery, Holden, Massachusetts
Arrangements by Miles Funeral Home, Holden, Massachusetts

*Please participate in our celebration with your prayers and actions, as you are able and comfortable. Please know, you are invited to pray the words in **bold**.*

I am resurrection and I am 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 worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah 25:8-9

The Rev. Jane A. Beebe

⁸Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalm 139

Kathy Socia

¹O LORD, you have searched me out and known me.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my resting places,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Indeed, there is not a word is on my lips,
but you, O Lord, you know it altogether.

⁵You press upon me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

⁷Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,”
¹² darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness and light to you are both alike.
¹³ For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴ I will thank you because I am marvelously made.
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
¹⁵ My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret,
and woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the
womb;
all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day by day when as
there was none of them.
¹⁷ How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
¹⁸ If I were to count them, they would be more in
number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be
like yours.

1 Peter 1:3-9

Robert Alan

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

POETRY READING

In Blackwater Woods **By Mary Oliver**

Laura Hunter

Look, the trees
are turning
their own bodies
into pillars
of light,
are giving off the rich
fragrance of cinnamon
and fulfillment,
the long tapers
of cattails
are bursting and floating away over
the blue shoulders
of the ponds,
and every pond,
no matter what its name is, is
nameless now.
Every year
everything
I have ever learned
in my lifetime
leads back to this:
the fires and the black river of loss
whose other side is salvation,

whose meaning
none of us will ever know.
To live in this world
you must be able
to do three things:
To love what is mortal;
to hold it against your bones
knowing your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go.

EULOGY

Hillary Stasonis & Olivia Straw

BRIEF HOMILY

The Rev. Jane A. Beebe

THE COMMENDATION & COMMITTAL

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we
commend your servant Joan. 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.**

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. The One who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through the indwelling Spirit. My heart therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are the pleasures for evermore.

Then, while earth is cast on upon the urns, the Celebrant says these words

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior, we commend Joan & Madelyn to their loving God, and we commit their remains to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. God bless them and keep them, may God make God's face to shine upon them and be gracious to them, may God lift up God's countenance upon them and give them peace.
Amen.

The Celebrant says

May God be with you.

People

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon him.

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

The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

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 eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.