

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
MELINDA SUE WILLIAMS
DECEMBER 16, 1948 – MARCH 7, 2019



MARCH 11, 2019
11:00 A.M.
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
680 CALDER
BEAUMONT, TEXAS



**A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
MELINDA SUE WILLIAMS
DECEMBER 16, 1948 – MARCH 7, 2019**

Hymn 362

*“Holy, Holy, Holy!”
Nicea*

The Celebrant says the following Collect, first saying

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Melinda. 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 us 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.

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs (31:10-12, 25-31)

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. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90 (1-12) *(read responsively by half verse)*

Lord, you have been our refuge *

from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or the land and the earth were born,*

from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, *

“Go back, O child of earth.”

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday

when it is past *

and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream,*

we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; *

in the evening it is dried up and withered.

For we consume away in your displeasure; *

we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

Our iniquities you have set before you,*

and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

When you are angry, all our days are gone; *

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The span of our life is seventy years,

perhaps in strength even eighty; *

yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,

for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

Who regards the power of your wrath? *

who rightly fears your indignation?

So teach us to number our days *

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

A Reading from the Revelation to John (21:2-7)

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 (KJV) (*read in unison*)

The Lord is my shepherd;
 I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
 He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul;
 He leadeth me 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, they comfort me.
Thou preparast a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
 Thou anointest my head with oil;
 My cup runneth over.
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.

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (14:1-6)

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

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

The Homily

Fr. Tony Clark

The Apostles' Creed (*please stand*)

I believe in God, 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.

The Prayers

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.

For our sister Susan, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the
Resurrection and I am the Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who
mourn for Melinda, 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 sister eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in
your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Celebrant

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Melinda, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father’s love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Hymn 671

*“Amazing Grace”
New Britain*

The Commendation

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

The celebrant continues

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.

Celebrant and people

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

Celebrant

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

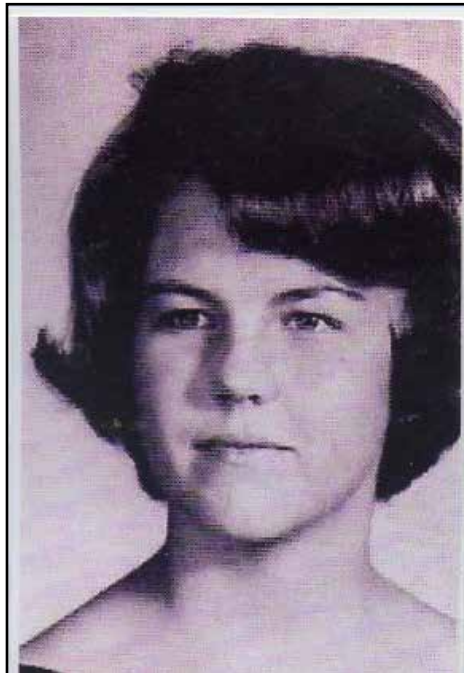
The Blessing

Hymn 594

*“God of Grace and God of Glory”
Cwm Rhonda*

The Dismissal

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



Linda
Turner
Williams



MELINDA SUE WILLIAMS died Thursday, March 7, 2019, after suffering a stroke and a mercifully brief period of infirmity.

She was born on December 16, 1948, in Silver City, New Mexico, but grew up in Deming, New Mexico. She had a lifelong love of New Mexico, the mountains, and the desert Southwest as a result. She developed a lifelong passion for rock hounding and could identify most stones at sight. Throughout her life, any time she learned someone was travelling into New Mexico she would insist they bring her back a rock or two, which she proudly displayed in her yard or on the shelves of her curios.

In her youth she spent a great deal of time at her grandmother Marcella Fulcher's home in Fort Stockton, TX, and her great aunt Annie Hider's ranch nearby. Throughout her life she would tell stories about learning to ride and care for her horse Streak, getting to know ranch hands and working with Uncle Pete, and funny anecdotes about a horse who would only allow you to ride him if you gave him a can of Alpo dog food, which is made from horse meat. When not on the ranch she spent a great deal of time at the city swimming pool with her siblings and classmates. She developed lifelong friendships and had an uncanny knack to recall events decades past when meeting with old classmates at school reunions. She graduated from Deming High School in May of 1966

In August of 1966 she relocated with her parents and siblings to Silsbee, TX where her father ran an upholstery shop. However, she missed all of her friends in southern New Mexico and far west Texas. When asked about her early experiences in east Texas, she would recollect that she found the trees of the drive between Beaumont and Silsbee felt like a canyon and made her feel claustrophobic, and that the vernacular felt foreign with the locals offering her 'sody-wadder' as a beverage as opposed to a cure for stomach ailments. Given her homesickness she moved back out to Fort Stockton and stayed with her grandmother for a short time. After this gap year she began taking courses at The University of Texas at El Paso. She would retell stories of driving into Ciudad Juarez for dinner and the adventures she would go on around El Paso. She moved back to be with her family in the late 1960's and met her first husband. She moved around Texas and Alabama with him and had three children, John Gregory Junior who died at 6 months old in Wichita Falls, Mindy Sue who died

at 3 days old in Beaumont, and Jay Christopher in Mobile, Al. She divorced him and relocated back to Silsbee where she met the love of her life Gary Williams, with whom she would spend the rest of her life. They were married May 27th, 1977 in Silsbee, TX at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Over the next few years she became a rail fan with her husband, making numerous trips to watch steam locomotives run and ride in excursion trains behind them. She would often recall the story of putting a safety harness on JayC during an excursion from Birmingham, AL to Chattanooga, TN to keep him safe, only to be mortified when he began barking at the other participants. In 1979 she gave birth to her son Stuart Patrick in Beaumont, and though she wanted many more children this formed the balance of her biological family. In the early 1980's she worked several posts in education, each one a leadership position. She then began an enduring and endearing habit of expanding her family by 'adopting' the friends of her sons, treating them as if they were her own. During the mid 1980's she ran a trucking company, continuing a trailblazing tradition of refusing to be sidelined in employment due to her gender. She was a board member of the Texas Independence Express, a pivotal member of the National Railway Historical Society excursion of the 4449 during the 1984 World's Fair, and coached numerous years for her son Stuart's team in the Spindletop Soccer League.

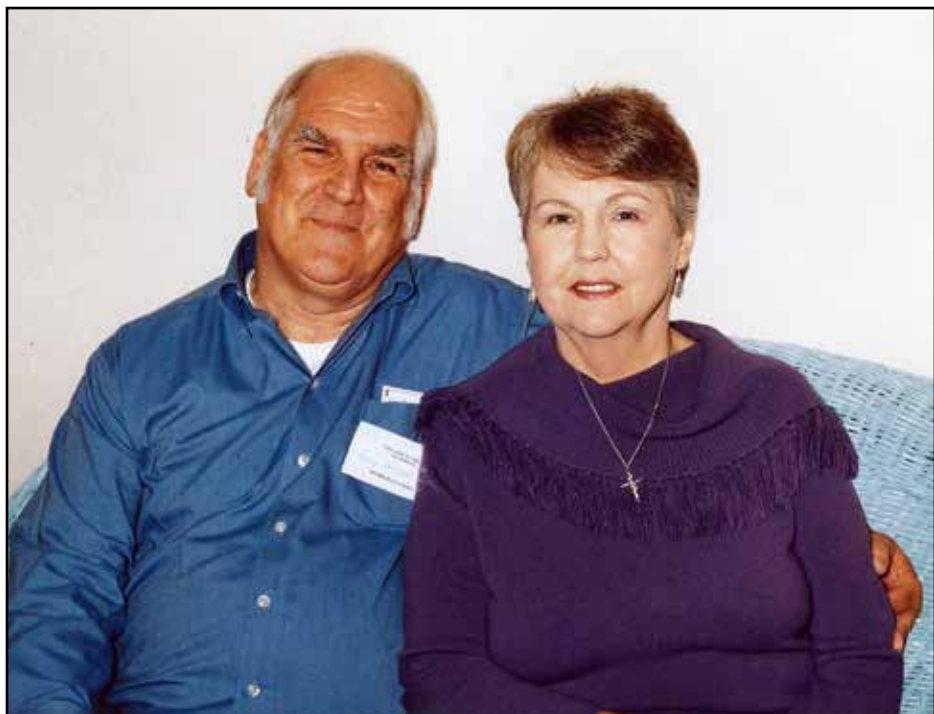
As the 1990's began, she became active in organizations at St. Mark's Episcopal Church including joining the choir, serving in St. Hilda's Guild, and being a founding member of their chapter of Daughters of the King. She also continued to be a nurturing mother to her sons and a loving wife, making her home the center of activities and always having a place for anyone who needed it. She loved to throw parties and entertain. Even though her health had several challenges over time, she none the less kept her spirits up and her gregarious nature was always apparent. Whenever she and Gary would go out to eat, she would develop a relationship with her waiters and waitresses, talking about her family. She was a loving grandmother, doting on each granddaughter with an unwavering affection and constantly giving spirit.

She is survived by her husband, Gary Williams; sons, Jay Christopher Williams and his husband Shane, Stuart Patrick Williams and wife Stephanie; her beautiful granddaughters, Shelby Williams, McKenzie Williams, and Gabriel Williams; her sisters, Kathy Orgovan, Karen Key, and Pamela McGallion; her brothers, Joe Turner and John Turner; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was a loving, strong, devoted, formidable woman and she will be greatly missed.













Pallbearers
John Bangart
Bryan Yancy
Adam Silvernail
Matt Fuller
Shane George
David Sells



*Enrichement of Mrs. Williams' cremated body will be at
St. Mark's Columbarium, Beaumont, at a later date.*



*Family and friends are invited to join the family in the
Cloister Room after the service.*

Broussards
Established 1889

Please sign Mrs. Williams' guest book and share your memories at
broussards1889.com