

**TRINITY**  
Episcopal Church & School

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

May 13, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM



**Martha Lawrence Beeman**

1945 – 2023

## Martha Lawrence Beeman

Martha Lawrence Beeman died at home in Vero Beach of a short illness on May 6th, the fifth anniversary of meeting her husband Richard at the Trinity Church coffee hour. During Covid, they married on the Sea Oaks beach two years later.

Martha was much loved by family, friends, and almost everyone she ever met, and she cherished and nurtured her relationships with each of them. She was attentive to everyone, so every shopkeeper, plumber or painter could sense that she was a special person who cared about them individually. Basket students became her treasured best friends, some sustaining her classes for years and years. She had the gift of sympathy and patience, and always brightened the day for the people around her with her ebullient spirit. In difficult or notable moments, Martha's close friends and family would receive an eloquently crafted note conveying her care and love. One friend described her as "the most caring person I have ever met."

Professionally, Martha Lawrence was best known for her definitive 1990 book, Lightship Baskets of Nantucket. Ever since, she has led popular classes in the precise art of constructing Nantucket Lightship Baskets. When asked what she did, she'd proudly reply, "I am a teacher."

Martha also published Scrimshaw: The Whaler's Legacy. In addition to teaching and writing, Martha excelled at whatever task she put her mind to. Over her colorful career, Martha was once a rancher, then a journalist on an Indian reservation, then a photographer for books, postcards, and magazines focused on Beaufort, SC. She also worked there for CODA, the agency sheltering families from domestic abuse.

Martha felt a special connection to the Island of Nantucket, vacationing there during childhood summers and watching her grandfather carve wooden figureheads for sailing ships in his dockside shop. A waitress in her teens during the summers there, she was in the ideal place to take up an apprenticeship to craftsmen making baskets and learned their perfection from the masters.

In recent years, students in Japan twice hosted Martha to teach there. Respect for her as a senior, an expert author of books on baskets and scrimshaw, led to her being treated as a celebrity in Tokyo and Kobe. One student said, "Martha has given us not just the knowledge of basket weaving, but she has taught us that it's all about friendship, and that is the most important thing."

*Continued on the inside back cover.*

# **Burial of the Dead: Rite One**

**May 13, 2023**

## **Prelude**

### **Entrance Rite**

*The following is said, all standing.*

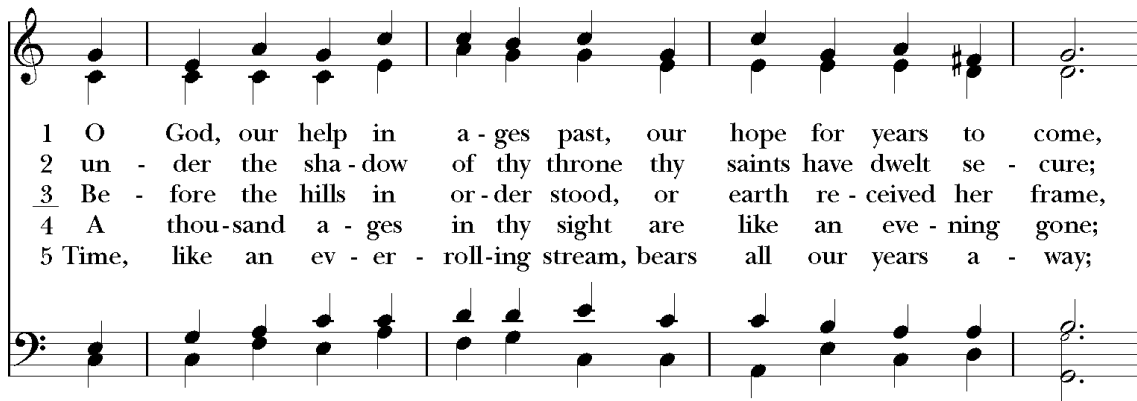
I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;  
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;  
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

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.

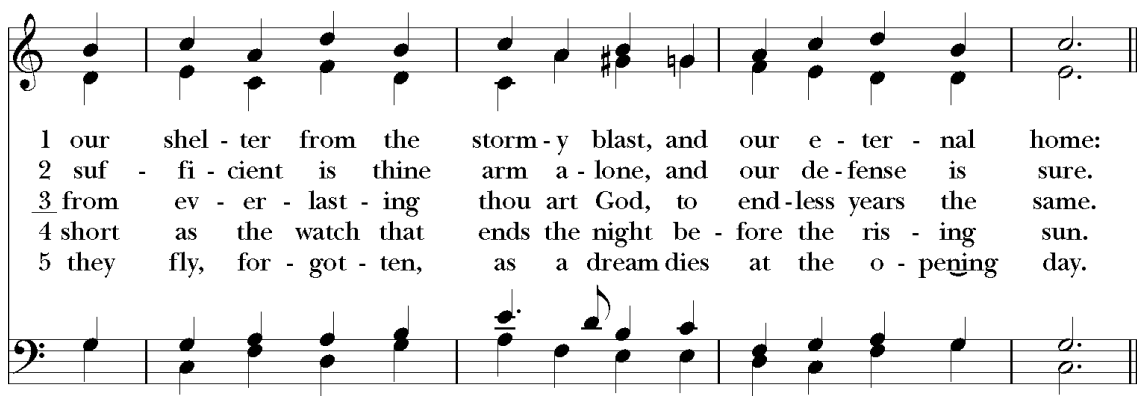
For none of us liveth to himself,  
and no man dieth to himself.  
For if we live, we live unto the Lord;  
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.  
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

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

**Hymn 680** *All sing, standing.*



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;  
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;



1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90 Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**A Collect for Burial** *Remain standing.*

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Martha, and grant her 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.**

*All sit.*

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
<sup>24</sup> “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”

<sup>25</sup> The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul who seeks him.  
<sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.

<sup>31</sup> For the Lord will not  
cast off forever,  
<sup>32</sup> but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;  
<sup>33</sup> for he does not afflict from his heart  
or grieve the children of men.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23** *Read in unison by congregation.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me; \*  
    you have anointed my head with oil,  
    and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days  
of my life, \*  
    and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son;  
And to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.

## **Second Reading**

John 14:2-6

<sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>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.**

**Hymn 671** *All stand. Stanzas 1-3 sung before the Gospel. Stanzas 4-5 sung after the Gospel.*

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  
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 \*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

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  
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me  
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

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.  
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.*

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919) Copyright: Music: Harmonization copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

**The Holy Gospel** *Remain standing.*

John 11:21-27

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

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

<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

<sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Homily** *All sit.*



**Apostles' Creed** *All stand.*

*The Celebrant says:*

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

*Celebrant and People:*

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, dead, and buried.**  
**He descended into hell.**  
**The third day he rose again from the dead.**  
**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.**

*Celebrants says:*

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

*People and Celebrant:*

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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*Reader:* 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 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.**

Grant us grace to entrust Martha to thy never-failing love; receive her into the arms of thy mercy, and remember her according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant adds:*

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 Martha, and 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.**

## **Commendation** *All stand.*

*Celebrant:* Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,

*People:* **Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Celebrant:* 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.

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

*The Celebrant then says:*

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant, Martha. 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.**

## **Blessing**

*The Priest blesses the People, saying:*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Remembrances**      Douglas or Meredith Lawrence  
                                 Richard Beeman

## Hymn 405

*Refrain*



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,

2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,

3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,

4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.

the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,

the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.

how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895) Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958), desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright Music: Used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc. Descant, © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

## Postlude

Readers in today's service :      Kenneth Cookus      *Lamentations*  
   Hadley Beeman      *John*

*The family invites everyone to a reception in the Parish Hall.*

**Poem** Death is nothing at all, by Canon Henry Scott-Holland

Read by: Meredith Lawrence

Death is nothing at all.  
It does not count.  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was.  
I am I, and you are you,  
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.  
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.  
Put no difference into your tone.  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together.  
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.  
What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just round the corner.

All is well.  
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.  
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.  
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

To marry at this age, hope wins over doubt.  
We've experienced much of what life is about.  
We know how we feel,  
Crave that which is real,  
And know you can't win each and every bout.

For two years our hearts we'd explore:  
Who we are now and in days of yore.  
We've met family and friend  
Once and again,  
And eagerly talked of more that's in store.

We concluded life's best lived together  
And that the long term means right NOW.  
We collude life be lived in good weather,  
Not such that you may have to plow.

In olden times, I'd plight thee my troth,  
And demurely you'd pray to obey.  
Today there's no troth, be troth what it may,  
Nor Uncle Bill to give you away,  
But as my wedded partner you'll get equal say.

We come to be wed at Sea Oaks white beach,  
Inspired by horizons that seem in our reach.  
We are blessed in our love  
Filled with hope from above —  
Though there's na'ry a rector to preach.

I come to our wedding with verse,  
I could sing, but ears would be burst.  
Will complete both me and my life  
When you say that you'll be my wedded wife —

I love you for better or worse.

One year ago, we wed at the beach,  
Plighting our troth, each one to each,  
Covid had ruled out the church,  
But we were not left in a lurch,  
As a notary filled in the breach.

We gathered as five — a small coterie,  
An intimate wedding with few as dared be.  
A groom and a bride  
Stood side by side,  
Presider and witnesses added just three.

Dear Hadley Beeman Faced-timed the event,  
And the first toast — from London she sent,  
The champagne did flow  
Amidst the bride's glow.  
No cake was baked, as for key lime we went.

Of photos, we'd sure to have plenty,  
Where three would suffice, we took twenty.  
And showed off the ring,  
That came close to bling,  
Good wishes cascaded a plenty.

Yet midst all the handshakes and kissing  
A sacred something was missing.  
We felt the Lord's presence,  
Was there but in essence —  
His blessing our union was missing.

Today we again gather few  
And hardly fill out but one pew,  
To ask the Lord's blessing,  
Sans further digressing,  
And Father Switz gave it with perfect ado.



Thank you to Janie and Marilee,  
Witnesses best you are verily.

Thanks Father Switz, who acts in God's place,  
Offering blessings and bringing us grace.  
Like the wedding at Cana, the water here's fine,  
But we toast holy spirits and raise up great wine.

Thus fortified, the bright future we face,  
Our marriage is blessed and all share in God's grace.



Born outside of Boston, Martha was raised in Dover, MA and graduated from Simmons College in Boston. She loved to paint, and her paintings of sail boats and salt marshes are cherished gifts. Her rescue dog, Oscar was her constant companion for his fifteen years and everyone's pet.

Martha is survived by her husband, Richard Beeman, sons, Douglass C. Lawrence (Wellesley, MA) and Matthew B. Lawrence (St. Petersburg, FL) and the children of her late husband Bruce A. McDonald: Mary M. Serino, Debra S. Cookus, and Randolph W. Mattern.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions will be welcomed at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2365 Pine Ave, Vero Beach FL 32960 <https://trinityvero.org>, or the Lightship Basket Fund in Memory of Martha Lawrence Beeman at the Nantucket Historical Association, 15 Broad St, PO Box 1016, Nantucket MA 02554 <https://nha.org>.



# TRINITY

Episcopal Church & School

2365 Pine Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960

772-567-1146

[www.TrinityVero.org](http://www.TrinityVero.org)