

A Celebration of Life Service



Judith Ringgold Docca
6/24/1939 – 8/9/24

Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 5005, Laytonsville, MD 20882
21611 Laytonsville Rd. Laytonsville, MD 20882
www.saintbartholomews.org

Prelude

All stand

Processional Hymn:

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymn 376

Officiant 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.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

The Collect

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

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with her family in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom chapter 3:1-5, 9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they
seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a
disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little,
they will receive great good, because God tested them and found
them worthy of himself;

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy^[1] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

A Reading Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: *Amazing grace*

Hymn 671

The Holy Gospel

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to **John 6:37-40**

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose

nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

Rev. Vikki Clayton

Words of Tribute and Thanksgiving

Mr. Mike Durso

Apostles' Creed

All stand

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

Officiant and People

**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.**

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

**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 Prayers of the People

For Judy, 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 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 Judy eternal life.
Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

She 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.

Lord, comfort us in our sorrows; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Officiant Father of all, we pray to you for Judy, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

The Commendation

Officiant Give rest, O Christ, to Judy with all your saints,
People **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 Judy. 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

Officiant The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: *For all the saints*

Hymn 287

Postlude

Celebrant: The Reverend Vikki Clayton

Organist: Mr. Elton King

Lector: Mr. Richard Rutherford

A reception after the service will be held in the church's undercroft.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:

Montgomery College Student Scholarship Fund:

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni-friends-donors/foundation/donate.html>

or mail your check to:

Montgomery College Foundation

9221 Corporate Blvd, 3rd Floor

Rockville, MD 20850

Indicate in memo section that it is a gift

“in memory of Dr. Docca.”

Dr. Judith Ringgold Docca

Dr. Judith Ringgold Docca was born on June 24th, 1939, in Philadelphia, PA, and passed away on Friday, August 9th, 2024. The impact of this loss is an echo of an incredible life well lived. Dr. Docca, Judy to friends and family, was an upstanding member of our community and the pinnacle of education. Before her extensive career in Montgomery County Public Schools, Judy climbed up every rung of the educational ladder. First receiving a Bachelor's degree in Romance Language and Literature from Pennsylvania State University in 1960, then onto a Master's degree in the same field from George Washington University, and finally onto her doctorate in Education Administrations from George Washington University. She began her career in Montgomery County as a Spanish and French teacher and later served as a Human Relations Coordinator before moving up to Assistant Principal at Montgomery Blair High School, and then Principal at Argyle Middle School. She would move on to being a four term (2006-2022) elected member of the Montgomery County Board of Education.

A strong advocate for education and civil rights, Dr. Docca was an Officer, Education chair, and Youth Council sponsor of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She served as chair of the Multicultural Community Partnership, president and treasurer of the Montgomery County Alliance of Black School Educators, and was a member of the Hispanic Educators Association and the League of Educators for Asian American Progress. She had been a mentor to high school students, a SAT tutor, and served on the Board of Directors for The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy. She was also co-chair of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education's (MABE) Black and Hispanic Caucus and a member of MABE's Conference Planning Committee. As if that were not enough, she was also essential in saving Montgomery County's Head Start program.

She has received, deservedly so, many awards and recognitions for her tireless dedication to our educational community and was inducted into the Montgomery County Human and Civil Rights Hall of Fame and was recently honored with a “Living Legend Award” during a Montgomery County Juneteenth celebration. Additionally, she was appointed to the Montgomery College Board of Trustees by Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Her legacy has been honored in other ways, including a MCPS Educational Foundation scholarship in her name, and the Argyle Middle School media center being named for her in 2023.

Outside of the education realm Judy was always active in her community. She was often out and about, proudly attending friendly luncheons with her sorority sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), doing community service as a member of The Links or going to the movies with family, never depriving the world of her company. Neighborly holiday get-togethers were always warmer and more festive when she attended.

Dr. Docca’s passing is a ripple that can be felt throughout Montgomery County, through school hallways, community organization meetings, and average living rooms; but with that ripple there will continue to be waves of progress because of her incredible legacy and munificent heart.

She is survived by a son, Billy of Berlin, MD; three grandchildren: Carly, Luke, and Jake; two sisters, Frances of Gaithersburg, MD and Susan of Philadelphia, PA and a niece, Carrie. She is preceded in death by her parents Celestine Davis Ringgold Stanford and Arthur N. Ringgold.