



**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PHILIP**

The Very Reverend Samuel G. Candler, *Dean*

Dale Adelman, Ph.D., *Canon for Music*

The Reverend C. Wallace Marsh IV, *Canon for Worship and Parish Life*

The Reverend George M. Maxwell, Jr., *Vicar*

Mary Hunter Rouse, *Canon for Education*

The Reverend Carolynne G. Williams, *Canon for Pastoral Care and Elder Ministry*

The Reverend Catherine Zappa, *Canon for Spirituality and Mission*

The Reverend John William Harkins III, Ph.D., *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Todd D. Smelser, *Canon Associate for Pastoral Care*

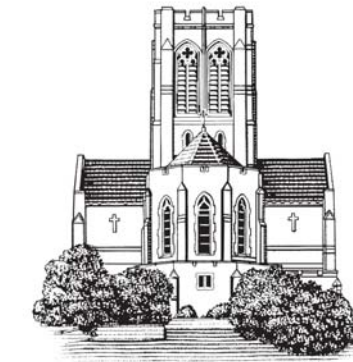
The Reverend Theophus "Thee" Smith, Ph.D., *Priest Associate*

Ms. Jennifer Rosenblath, *Senior Warden*

Mr. Rob Adams, *Junior Warden*

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The CATHEDRAL of  
**ST. PHILIP**  
SERVING ATLANTA AND THE WORLD

**A Service of Prayer and Light**

**23 September 2015 ✠ 7:00 P.M.**

**PASTORAL NOTE**

In 1998, Kelly Gissendaner was sentenced to death for her involvement in the murder of her husband, Doug Gissendaner. Though she did not commit the crime directly, she fully acknowledges her part in it and has expressed deep remorse. Her repentance, along with her discovery of the grace of God, has compelled her to reach out to other prisoners with love and hope, and to enter into the Certificate in Theological Studies program, through which many seminarians and doctoral students also have been touched by her faithful spirit. She also participated in a weekly Episcopal worship service as long as she was able. Thus, she is connected to many of the communities present here tonight.

Her case has drawn attention for many reasons, including her positive impact on so many people and the fact that she has faced the day of her scheduled execution not once, but twice—and is now preparing to face it a third time.

This evening, we set aside our political differences and come together to pray for Kelly and for the people hurt most by her crime and death sentence, beseeching God for healing and mercy.

We bear witness to the pain of all those affected by this cycle of violence and suffering: the soul of Doug Gissendaner and his loved ones; Kelly's family, especially her children; those who have been incarcerated with Kelly and those on death row in Georgia; her legal team; prison officials and staff; the Board of Pardons and Paroles; and Kelly herself.

As people of faith, we bear witness also to God's mercy and infinite power of redemption, reconciliation, and healing; and we come together in hope for all involved.

As words fall short in such a tragic but hopeful moment, we avail ourselves of one of the great gifts of religion: liturgy. In particular, this service will follow the pattern of a traditional Episcopal Evensong, with a general confession, Psalm, lessons, the traditional Evensong canticles (Song of Mary and Song of Simeon), a meditation, and prayers.

So that those who cannot be here in person can still participate with us, the service is being live-streamed.

The Rev. Cathy Zappa  
Canon for Mission and Spirituality

# A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND LIGHT

The Reverend Canon George M. Maxwell, Jr., *Officiant*  
The Reverend Canon Catherine Zappa, *Preacher*

*Please refrain from photography, video and audio recording. Cell phones should be in the off position. Thank you for your cooperation.*

*All stand for*

## The Procession

## The Opening Sentences

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

*Psalm 139:10, 11*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*John 8:12*

*All stand or kneel for*

## The Confession

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All* Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

## The Absolution

## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

*All stand.*

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.

*All* O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*The Office candles are lit as all sing*

## Hymn 490

*words & music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b.1934)*

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

## The Processional Hymn 690

*words: William Williams (1717-1791); transl. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt.  
music: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932)*

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious  
bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,  
hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,  
lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,  
land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,  
bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -  
strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to  
more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield, be thou still my strength and shield.  
thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

## The Dismissal

*Deacon*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All*

Thanks be to God.

*Leader* We pray for Doug's parents, siblings, children, and friends, who are grieved and rightfully angered by Doug's death and Kelly's participation in it. Give them your peace. Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for Kelly's children, Kayla, Dakota, and Brandon, who lost their father and fear losing their mother as well, and for the rest of Kelly's family. Grant them strength, hold them in your love, and help them continue the work of healing and reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for Kelly Gissendaner, who is facing her third execution date. Continue to fill her with your redeeming love, which has inspired her to love and serve others. Protect her faith, hope, and dignity; and let her light continue to shine. Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for those who have been incarcerated with Kelly, and who see their hope tied to hers. We pray for her friends and supporters, both inside and outside of the prison; and especially for her legal team, who have been working tirelessly to save her life. Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Help them bear their grave responsibilities, balance justice with mercy, and do what is right in the face of political pressures. Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for the staff, chaplains, and inmates at Pulaski and Arrendale State Prisons, who care about Kelly and have been on death watch with her; for the staff, inmates, and chaplain at Jackson State Prison, as they prepare for another execution; and for all who bear the weight of enforcing these decisions. Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for all the men on death row in Georgia, who bide their time with Kelly. We pray for those whose stories we will never hear, and for those who wait and pray alone. Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We pray for all of those who have been victims of violent crimes, and for all who have been convicted of violent crimes. Heal us, Lord Christ, and restore us to unity with God and each other. Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*All stand.*

### The General Thanksgiving

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*All* **Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### The Grace

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and we  
When we have run with pa - tience the race, and we

star of my life is Je - sus.  
show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*  
In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

*a tempo*  
Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

All sit while the Choir sings

**Psalm 23**

Anglican chant: : Charles Hylton Stewart  
BCP, p. 476

The LORD is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth 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 comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me; thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**THE LESSONS**

**The First Lesson**

Micah 7:18-20

All stand for

**The Magnificat**

music: Orlando Gibbons, Short Service  
words: Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed 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.

All sit for

**The Second Lesson**

Matthew 9:9-13

All stand for

**The Nunc Dimittis**

music: Harold Friedell, Service in F  
words: Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. 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.

**THE PRAYERS**

All stand for The Prayers.

- V. The Lord be with you.
- R. **And also with you.**
- V. Let us pray.

**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.**

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
- R. **And grant us your salvation.**
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
- R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
- R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
- R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
- R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
- R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
- R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

**The Collects**

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Sacred Song**

*Amazing Grace*

words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.  
music: New Britain, from Virginia Harmony (1831)  
soloist: Marquetta Thomas

**The Homily**

Canon Zappa

All sit. The congregation's candles are lit during the Sacred Song and remain lit for the following prayers.

**Sacred Song**

*Precious Lord, take my hand*

music & words: Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)  
soloist: Marquetta Thomas

All stand or kneel for

**The Litany**

- Leader O God, Creator of all, whose presence hovered over the dark waters and brought light into the darkness, shine your light into this present darkness. Lord, in your mercy,
- All **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader We pray for the soul of Doug Gissendaner, a beloved son, father, brother, and friend. May his soul, and the souls of all those who have died violent deaths, rest in peace. Lord, in your mercy,
- All **Hear our prayer.**