

A Prayer Service  
Remembering the Life of  
George L. Degener IV  
July 29, 1952 ~ November 25, 2025



December 6, 2025

# A PRAYER SERVICE CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GEORGE L. DEGENER IV

*The Celebrant says*

**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.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.

*People*              ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant*            Together, let us pray.

***O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant George, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.***

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## THE FIRST LESSON—Isaiah 61:1-3

*Read by George Degener*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion--to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 121    *Levavi oculos*

*Led by Kyle Degener*

*The Psalm is prayed responsively by half verse.*

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*

*from where is my help to come?*

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord, \*

*the maker of heaven and earth.*

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved \*

*and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.*

<sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*

*shall neither slumber nor sleep;*

<sup>5</sup> The Lord himself watches over you; \*

*the Lord is your shade at your right hand,*

<sup>6</sup> So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*

*nor the moon by night.*

<sup>7</sup> The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \*

*it is he who shall keep you safe.*

<sup>8</sup> The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*

*from this time forth for evermore.*

A reading Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

**A**ll who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Reader*            *The Word of the Lord.*

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

THE GOSPEL— *John 14:1-6*

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

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



Jesus said, "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."

*Celebrant*        *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

## HOMILY

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, praying in the words that Jesus taught us,

*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

God, your will for us is abundant life; receive George now into the fullness of life in your presence. *Hear our prayer.*

You know the thoughts of our hearts and our search for faith; shed the brightness of your light on George, who also sought understanding. *Hear our prayer.*

You are greater than all our ideas and images of you; draw George into the mystery of your being. *Hear our prayer.*

We know you as perfect Mercy and Love; welcome George in the grace of that love and mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

We praise you as the giver of life; gather all who mourn into the hope of renewed life. *Hear our prayer.*

The Church commends all who die to the care of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit; and so we commend George to you, giving thanks for the gift of his life. *Hear our prayer.*

May the Holy One, to whom all the desires of our hearts are known before we ask, hear our prayers for George, and for all who mourn, and grant us newness of life, and peace. *Amen.*

## THE COMMITTAL

*The following anthem is said*

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his 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 pleasures for evermore.

*Then, while earth is cast upon the urn, the Celebrant says these words*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother George; and we commit him to his resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. *Amen.*

*Then the Celebrant says*

Gracious God, you alone are the source of all life. May your life-giving Spirit flow through us, so that we may be ministers of your compassion to one another; in our sorrow give us the calm of your peace, and kindle our hope, and in your good time, let our grief give way to joy, through Jesus Christ our Deliverer. *Amen.*

Rest eternal grant to George, O Lord:  
*And let light perpetual shine upon him.*

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

## THE BLESSING

*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 everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

FROM THE 1979 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (P. 507)



*The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.*

*The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.*



George L. Degener IV, a beloved member of the Quogue community whose kindness, steady presence, and warm humor touched all who knew him, passed away on November 25th at 73.

Born in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., and raised in Ridgewood, N.J., George carried with him throughout his life the values of humor, curiosity, and generosity instilled in him from an early age. After beginning his professional life as an advertising executive in New York City, he later followed his passion for hands-on craftsmanship, forging a second career as a respected general contractor. His dedication to his work, clients, and colleagues was evident in every project he undertook.

A longtime resident of Quogue, N.Y., George devoted much of his time to the Shinnecock Yacht Club, where he served as a committed member and officer. His love for the water and his enthusiasm for the club's community were integral parts of his life. He was also a faithful member and of the Church of the Atonement, contributing his time and talents to its mission and fellowship.

Above all, George treasured his family. He is survived by his partner, Veronique Louis; his sons, George (Amanda) and Kyle (Amanda); his daughter, Katie Gordon (Christopher); his cherished grandson, Reid; and his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. His love for them was unwavering, and he took immense pride in their accomplishments and the bonds they shared.

George will be remembered for his generous spirit, unwavering loyalty, and the joy he brought into the lives of friends and family. His legacy endures in the community he strengthened, the family he loved, and the countless people he touched along the way.

A visitation will be held at Werner & Rothwell Funeral Home on December 6th, from 2 – 4 p.m., and a celebration of life will be held this summer in Quogue.



*A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island*

40 Main Street, P.O. Box 887  
Westhampton Beach, New York 11978  
Phone: 631.288.2111  
[www.stmarkswhb.org](http://www.stmarkswhb.org)

**Church Services**

Saturdays 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist  
Sundays 9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist in the church (Livestreamed)  
The first “Sunday” of each month Healing & Anointing will be included in both services.

**Thursday Services**

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in Fr. Chris’ Office  
8:00 PM Compline via zoom

**Office Hours**

Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**All Members of Saint Mark's are Ministers of the Church!**  
The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano – *Bishop of Long Island*  
The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf – *Assisting Bishop*  
The Rt. Rev. William Franklin – *Assisting Bishop*

**The Very Rev. Christopher D. Jubinski**

*Rector of Saint Mark's*  
*Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Atonement, Quogue*  
*Dean of the Peconic Deanery*  
Email: [chris.jubinski@stmarkswhb.org](mailto:chris.jubinski@stmarkswhb.org)

The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie – *Priest-in-Residence*  
Stephen Hunt – *Director of Music*  
Kate Gabrielsen – *Parish Administrator*  
Chris Adams – *Facilities Manager*  
Rosanna Davis – *Director of Saint Mark's Bright Beginnings Preschool*  
Tom Horan – *Warden*  
Steve DeCaro – *Warden*

**Vestry Members:**

(Class of 2026) Rich Caccavano, Marjorie Kulesa, Steve Turner  
(Class of 2027) Diane Feil, John Kern, Sandy Wyman  
(Class of 2028) Tom Hadlock, Madeline Glover, Norma-Jeanne Okula  
Thomas Simson – *Treasurer*  
Carol Fitton – *Clerk of the Vestry*

