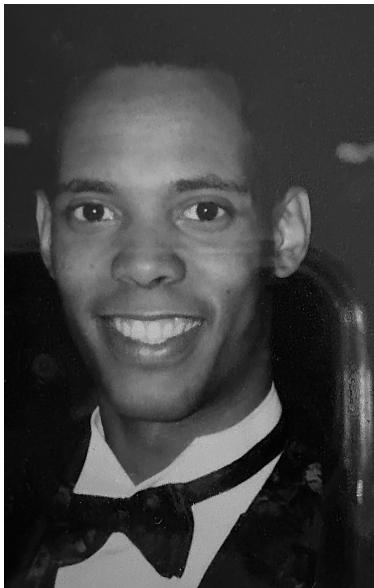


A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN R. BELL, JR.



DECEMBER 19, 1969 – JANUARY 14, 2026

**FEBRUARY 6, 2026
AT 2:00PM**

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
73 S. FULLERTON AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ
SLECHURCH.ORG 973-744-6220

Please stand while the following anthems are said.

OPENING ANTHEMS *(Book of Common Prayer p. 491)*

Celebrant I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though they die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed themselves 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 themselves,
and none becomes their own master when they die.
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.

When all are in place, the Celebrant may address the congregation, acknowledging briefly the purpose of their gathering, and bidding their prayers for the deceased and the bereaved.

REMEMBRANCES

Friends and family members who have made previous arrangements with the Clergy will speak briefly.
Leonard S. Coleman, Jr., Phyllis Peterman, PhD, Edwin H. Stier, Raymond G. Chambers

HYMN 208 (*The Hymnal 1982 Words: Latin, 1695, tr. Francis Port Music: Victory*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er

Antiphon (at the beginning)

Antiphon (at the beginning)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 *3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

Antiphon (at the end)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped. ♩

THE BURIAL COLLECTS *(Enriching Our Worship 2, p.133)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence may be kept; after which the Celebrant says the following Collects

Celebrant 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, Benjamin, 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.**

Celebrant Gracious God, we come before you this day in pain and sorrow. Give your grace to those who grieve, that they may find comfort in your presence and be strengthened by your Spirit. Be with this your family as they mourn and draw us together in your healing love; in the name of the one who suffered, died, and rose for us, Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated for the readings. Read by Denise Price.

THE FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (61:1-3)

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 broken-hearted,
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 (*St. Helena Psalter*). *Led by Gale Barrett-Shady.*
We will say the appointed Psalm responsively by verse.

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from God, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot be moved; *
the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Holy One watches over you *
and is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

God shall preserve you from all evil *
and is the One who shall keep you safe.

God shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Read by Gabriella Morria.

THE SECOND LESSON

A reading from the letter to the Romans (8:14-39)

For all 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.**

Please stand and join in singing.

HYMN 671 (*The Hymnal 1982* Words: John Newton Music: New Britain)

Amazing Grace

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Amazing Grace'. The notation is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a bass clef, the second with a treble clef, and the third with a bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in five-line staves, with each line containing five numbered lines (1 through 5) corresponding to the five lines of the melody. The first staff contains lines 1 through 5 of the lyrics. The second staff contains lines 1 through 5 of the lyrics. The third staff contains lines 1 through 5 of the lyrics.

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (14:1-6)
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“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 Rev. John A. Mennell*

Please stand as you are able and say together.

THE APOSTLES CREED (*Book of Common Prayer p. 496*)

Celebrant Let us stand in the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism,
to proclaim our faith and say,

All **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 OF THE PEOPLE

Leader For our brother Benjamin, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am Resurrection, and I am Life.”

People Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Benjamin and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

Leader You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at your table in your heavenly kingdom.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Silence may be kept and the Celebrant concludes with the following prayer. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 498)

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Benjamin, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his 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.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 360)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

HYMN 516 *(The Hymnal 1982 Words: Bianco da Siena Music: Down Ampney)*

Come down, O Love divine

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com-fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Book of Common Prayer, Eucharistic Prayer B, p. 367)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing (say) this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues, you may stand or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be the incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection
We await his coming glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All **AMEN!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 364)*

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

Our **Mother** | **Father** | who art in heaven,
Creator |
 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 364)*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)*

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.

HYMN 324 (*The Hymnal 1982* Words: *Liturgy of St. James* Music: *Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.*)
 Let all mortal flesh keep silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six-winged seraph; cher-u-bim with

trembling stand; ponder noth-ing earth-ly -
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu-man -
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -
 sleep-less eye veil their fac-es to the

mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand
 ves-ture, in the Bo-dy and the Blood
 scend-eth from the realms of end-less day,
 Pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de-scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may va-nish
 "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu ia!"

our full hom-age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the dark-ness clears a way.
 Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 499)*

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMENDATION *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 499)*

The Celebrant and other ministers take their places.

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

People **where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting**

Celebrant You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind; 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.

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, Benjamin. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

People **Amen.**

BLESSING

Celebrant O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of the Catholic Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a religious and holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The flowers have been dedicated to Ben's memory
by his wife, Claudia Corallo.*

*The family would like to thank relatives and friends
for their support during this time of bereavement.*

HYMN 687 (*The Hymnal 1982* Words: Martin Luther Music: *Ein feste Burg*)

A mighty fortress is our God

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never
 2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be
 3 And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to un-
 4 That word above all earth-ly powers, no thanks to them, a-

fail-ing; our help-er he a-mid the flood
 los-ing; were not the right man on our side,
 do-us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
 bid-eth; the Spi-rit and the gifts are ours

of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing: for still our an- cien-t foe
 the man of God's own choos-ing: dost ask who that may be?
 his truth to tri-umph through us; the prince of dark-ness grim,
 through him who with us sid-eth: let goods and kin-dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
 Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sa-ba-oth his Name,
 we trem-ble not for him; his rage we can en-dure,
 this mor-tal life al-so; the bo-dy they may kill:

and, armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e- qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat-tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit-tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a-bid-eth still, his king-dom is for ev-er.

DISMISSAL (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 365)

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**