

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
**CANDACE JOY
RAYMOND BOOKER**

MAY 10, 1963 – MAY 1, 2026



JUNE 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

Family members who have made previous arrangements with the Clergy will speak briefly.

The Booker-Raymond "Children:"

Alanna Lopez, Amanda Lopez, Walter Booker Jr, Maxwell Booker, Cameron Lopez, Leslie Fletcher & Stacie Turks

Ima Lopez

Wendy McNeil

Janis Ernst

HYMN 376 *(The Hymnal 1982)* Words: Henry Van Dyke Tune: Hymn to Joy, Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

THE BURIAL COLLECT *(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, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Candace and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with her friends and 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 our one holy and living God.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Read by Elizabeth Labat

THE LESSON

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (13:1-13)

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

*We will say the appointed Psalm alternately by half verse with the congregation saying the portions in bold.
Read by Mike Peinovich*

PSALM 23 *(St. Helena Psalter)*

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me 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, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (5:1-16)

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[b] on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY/EULOGY *Walter K. Booker*

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 *Read by Maxwell Booker*

Leader For our sister Candace, 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 for Candace and dry the tears of those who weep.

People **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 sister eternal life.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; 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 sister Candace, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her 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.

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace *Sung by Alison Bolsboi (The Hymnal 1982 Tune: New Britain)*

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
Creator

 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.

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.

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)*

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 Candace. 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.

People **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able and join in singing.

HYMN (Composer: William B. Bradbury, Lyricist: Anna B. Warner)

Jesus Loves Me

1 Je - sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so!
2 Je - sus loves me, he who died heav-en's gate to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! He will stay close be - side me all the way;

Lit - tle ones to him be - long: they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
he's pre - pared a home for me, and some day his face I'll see.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

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!**

CANDACE JOY RAYMOND BOOKER

Born to William R Raymond, III, and Carol R Patrick (nee Hall) in Detroit, Candace was the embodiment of her middle name throughout her earthly life. She attended the Academy of the Sacred Heart and then graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School. She then matriculated to Michigan State University for a year before transferring to Howard University, from which she later obtained her B.A. Pursuing a career in education, she also obtained an M.A. from Barry University in Early Childhood Education.

Her first marriage produced three daughters: Gladys Alanna Lopez, Carol Amanda Lopez and Cameron Reese Lopez. She married again to Walter K Booker, a fellow Detroiter whom she had known since high school, and together they shared a ‘Brady Bunch’ mixed family that included his three children: Walter K Booker, Jr, Morgan Booker and Maxwell Booker. And, of course, she is survived by her darling Coco, who shared the last 16 years of her earthly life, providing completely attentive and loving care throughout (while mostly staying off of the furniture). 😊

She was a loving mother, stepmother and companion to all and shared many adventures with her family and friends, including surprise ‘adventures’ (i.e., day trips) to Hyde Park, Ohana Castle, the Delaware Water Gap and several ‘Triple D’ (*Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*) joints in the tri-state area, as well as longer trips to Newport, Rhode Island, and Martha’s Vineyard and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC, among many others. In fact, frequent road trips down to the Philly area to visit with her beloved Aunt Jane Harris as well as an epic one to Chicago to visit the Thompson family cousins were special highlights. As were her Girls Trips to DC, Las Vegas and Coral Gables with various friends over the years. In sum, her love of travel and sense of adventure made her a great companion and travel partner, though, in fairness, not the best navigator. 😊

Candace also loved art – as reflected in her memberships in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the Montclair Art Museum in New Jersey – and music, volunteering for several years at the Montclair Jazz Festival and venturing into the City to various jazz clubs and brunches over the years. She also loved to laugh and was a huge fan of comedy – Wanda Sykes and Tom Papa were special favorites – and she was often found at NY Levity Live in West Nyack, New York, or at Off the Hook in Naples, Florida, taking in a show ... when not venturing clear across the state to West Palm Beach to take in a DL Hughley set with her husband and her brother, William R (Bill) Raymond, IV (who was fresh off of a plane from Seattle). (So then let’s not mention that time at Caroline’s in the City when she heckled Sinbad and, ahem, was schooled in the proper way to be a better wife – yep, that happened! 😊) And most recently, she had become an enthusiastic golfer and spent many wonderful afternoons on the links with Walter (and, usually, Coco, who was supposed to be hidden in the back of the golf cart and only occasionally hopped out to

announce herself and get her parents in trouble for bringing her along 😊). In sum, Candace was a joy to be around, whether at home or on the road or on the links or at the (comedy or jazz) club, and radiated this to all who knew and loved her.

And she was beloved in her community both personally and professionally. As the Owner and Director of the Happy Today & Bright Tomorrow Childcare Center in Union City, NJ, for over 20 years, she has literally shared her joy, love and care with thousands of children and their parents and families. This special community was truly her second family, and includes her long-serving Assistant Directors Lucy Sonera (deceased) and Ima Lopez, along with the members of her teaching staff, especially Kenia Rodriguez and Belgica Urena who've been with "Ms. Candace" during her entire tenure at HTBT.

Our beloved Candace Joy Raymond Booker is survived by her husband Walter, her children Alanna, Amanda, Walter, Jr, Morgan, Maxwell, and Cameron, as well as by her brother William R (Bill) Raymond, IV, and his family, wife Leslie and daughters Elaine and Alicia. She is also survived by her beloved Aunt Jane Harris (who turned 100 years old earlier this year) and her Raymond family cousins, including Leslie Fletcher, Lawrence Harris, Stacie Turks, Susan Jenkins, Aunt Valda Jenkins, and their families, among others. (Her father predeceased her.)

So, too, she is survived by the members of her Hall family, including her mother Carol Patrick, uncle Peter Hall and cousins Lauren Burroughs and Alex Hall and their families, among others. And dear friends will always love her, including Kelly Hurley, Stacey Crespo, Elizabeth (Liz) Labat, Janis Ernst, Wendy McNeil, Joyce Brown, Billie Gleissner and Oneida Mendez-Laws, among many, many others.

A literal joy to the world, we pray that you'll remember Candace in whatever way keeps her presence most alive in your life. We'll do so with flowers, jazz, golf and colors – the vibrant, joyful colors that she favored – and with service and contribution. In this spirit, if you would like to make a donation to a cause close to her heart, please consider: the Urban League of Hudson County whose food program, under the passionate and impactful leadership of Lois Carter, partnered holistically with Candace and HTBT to develop the children in their care in mind, body and spirit (bit.ly/CandaceHTBT); and/or the Friends of Anderson Park in Montclair, as this space was sacred to her and she spent many, many happy hours enveloped in its lush environs, especially with her beloved Coco and, occasionally, a yoga group that met there (friendsofandersonpark.com/donate/).

As our beloved Candace was in her earthly life, be the Joy you wish to feel in the world....

