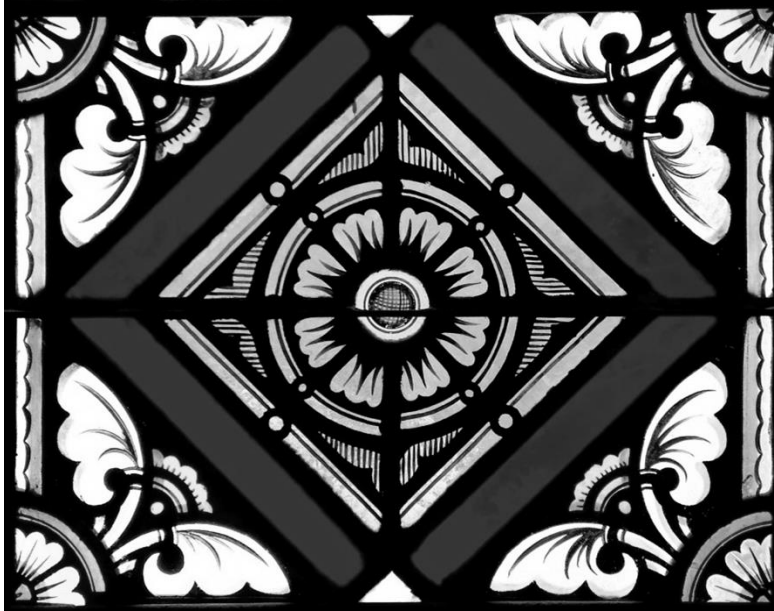


**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Armonk, New York**



**The funeral of
WILLIAM (BILLY) CHARLES DECKER
(August 29th, 1985 – December 12th, 2017)**

Monday, December 18th 2017
10 o'clock in the morning

Officiant & Preacher: The Rev. Nils Chittenden
Rector

Organist: Terence Flanagan

Funeral Home: Oelker-Cox & Sinatra



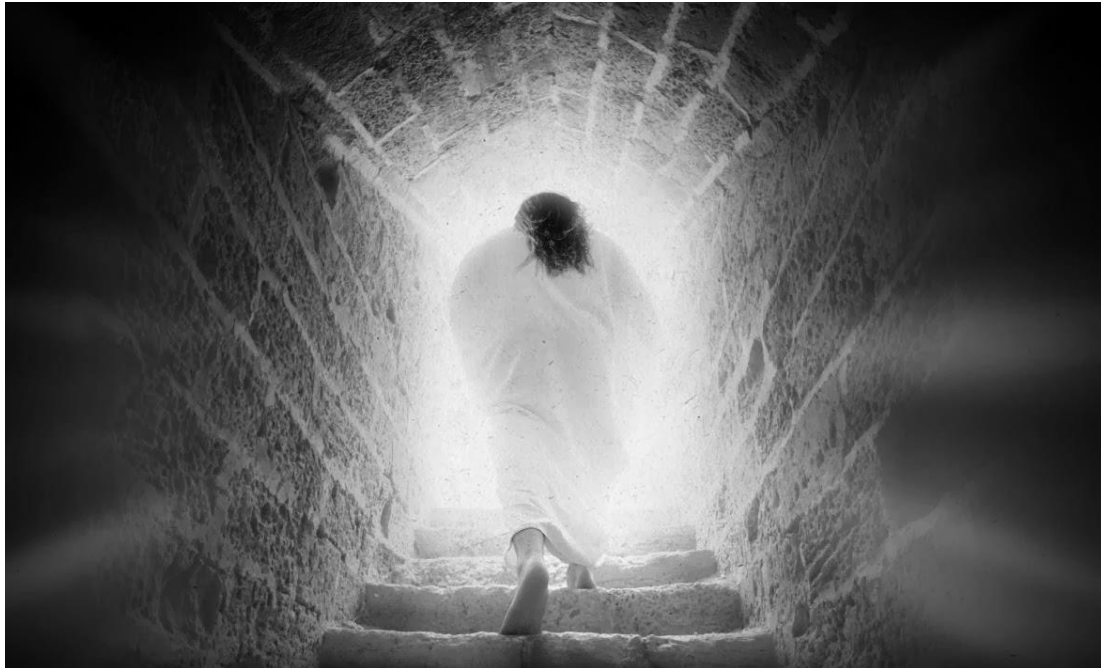
Please stand for the Funeral Sentences and procession.

The Liturgy of the Resurrection

The Officiant 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.

The Officiant welcomes the congregation.

We are here today to give thanks to God who has blessed us all with the gift of this earthly life and has given to our departed brother Billy his span of years and his gifts of character.

God our Father, we are here to thank you now for his life, for every memory of love and joy, for every good deed done by him and every sorrow and struggle shared with us.

We thank you for the rest in Christ he now experiences, we thank you for giving him to us, and we thank you for the glory we shall share together.

The Liturgy of the Word

Officiant The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

The Officiant prays the Collects, prayers appointed for this particular occasion.

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 Billy, 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.

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding:
Deal graciously with Charlene, Bill, Sam and Kevin, and all those who mourn.
Surround them with your love,
that they may not be overwhelmed by grief,
but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please sit for the readings, which are read by Linda Herbst, Christie Herbst and Kevin Decker.

Reader A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

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.

Wisdom 3:1-5,9

Reader The Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated as we listen to Larry Goetz (guitar) playing 'Hallelujah', written by Leonard Cohen and popularized by Jeff Buckley, Rufus Wainwright and many others.

Reader 'The Serenity Prayer' by Reinhold Neibuhr.

One of the most popular prayers today is known as the Serenity Prayer. Written by Reinhold Neibuhr, the prayer was widely used in sermons and Sunday school groups and studies. In the early 1940s, the group Alcoholics Anonymous began to use a shortened version of the Serenity Prayer in their twelve step program.

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as
the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
Trusting that
He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be
reasonably
happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next. **Amen.**

God

GRANT

me

THE

SERENITY to ACCEPT

the THINGS

I CANNOT Change;

COURAGE to CHANGE

THE THINGS I CAN;

and

the WISDOM to KNOW

THE

DIFFERENCE

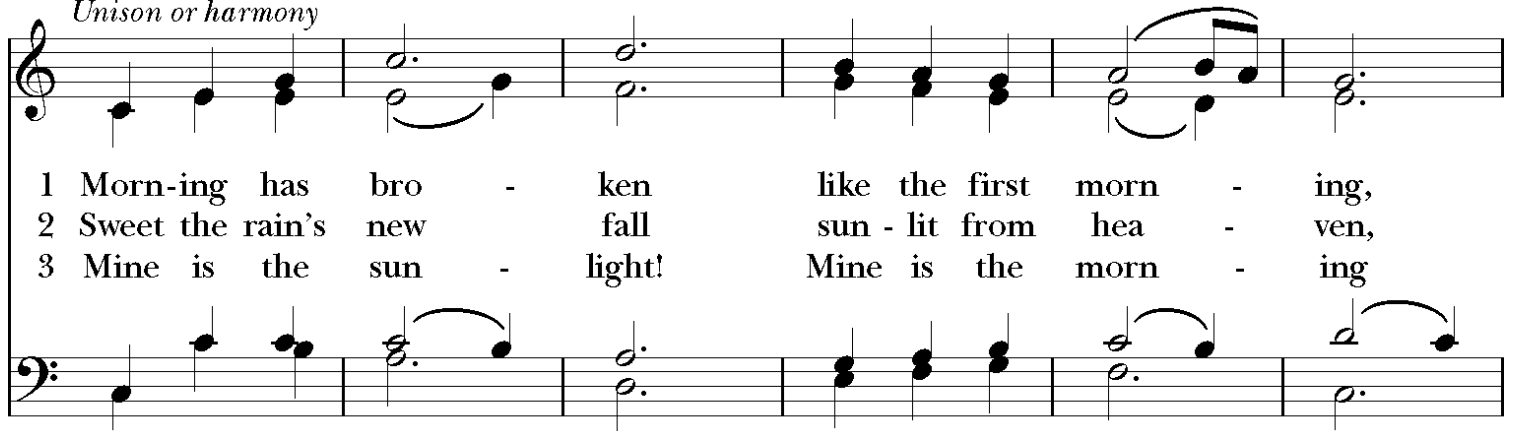
THE SERENITY PRAYER

by

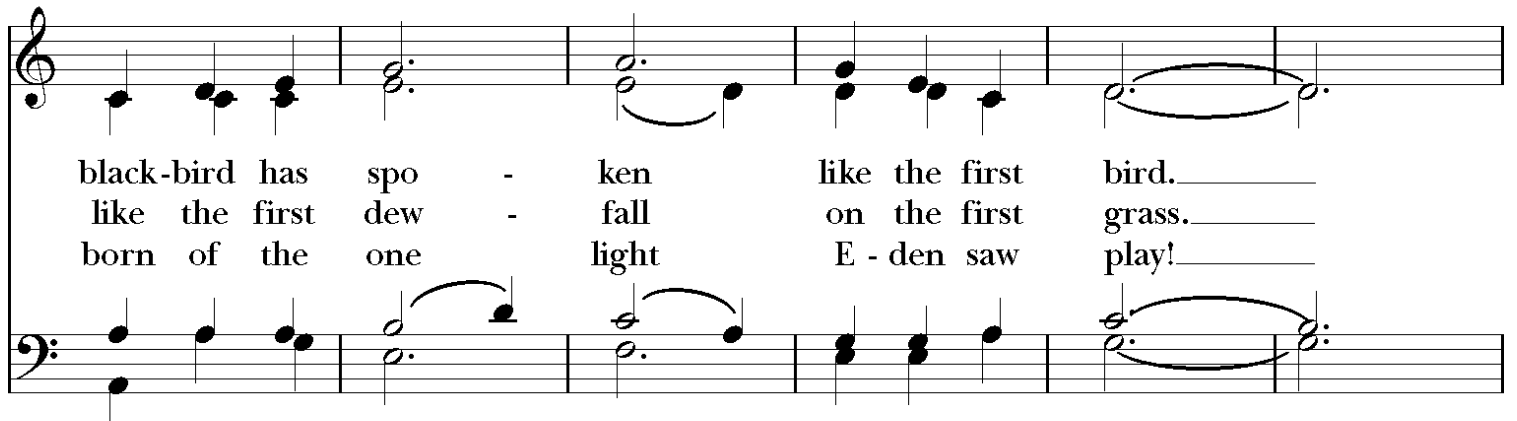
Reinhold Niebuhr

Please stand for the Hymn.

Unison or harmony



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
born of the one light E - den saw play! _____



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! _____

Please sit for the eulogies and sermon. Eulogies are offered by Sam Decker, Charlene Decker and Bill Decker.

After the sermon, Larry Goetz (guitar) plays 'Blackbird' by John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Please stand for the prayers.

The Prayers

Officiant In union with Christ and in the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Father.

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant Hear us, Lord.

All And help us to pray.

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant For our brother, Billy, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said,
 "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant Hear us, Lord.

All And help us to pray.

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

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant Hear us, Lord.

All And help us to pray.

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

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant Hear us, Lord.

All And help us to pray.

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

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant Hear us, Lord.
All And help us to pray.

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

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant Hear us, Lord.
All And help us to pray.

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

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant Hear us, Lord.
All And help us to pray.

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

A long silence for prayer.

Officiant Hear us, Lord.
All And help us to pray.

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

All And rise in glory! Amen.

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

All 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 Peace

Officiant Jesus said: Peace I leave with you.
My peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives give I unto you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the risen Christ be always
with you.

All And also with you

We invite you to greet each other in the name of the Lord! As you shake the hands of your neighbors, you may wish to say 'The Peace of the Lord', or 'God's Peace'.



Please stand for the Commendation.

The Commendation

Officiant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
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.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant William Charles Decker.
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.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Now may the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude

***You are warmly invited to lunch
at
Zero Otto Nove
55 Old Rte 22, Armonk, NY 10504***

A retiring collection is taken to help SHATTERPROOF in its work to help people with addictions.

You can also donate at www.shatterproof.org

St. Stephen's thanks the North Castle Police Department for assisting with traffic and parking this morning, and Neal Baumann, Mari-Anne Baumann, Charity Lunder and Ed Woodyard for ushering and preparations.