

In Celebration of and in Thanksgiving for the Life of

DIANNE EBBS

4 November 1946 – 4 August 2026



Saturday, September 12, 2026

12:00 PM | Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE II

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

The People stand while the following anthems are said.

ANTHEMS AT THE ENTRANCE

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.

SOLO ANTHEM

Jesus is Love

Text & Music: Lionel Richie (b.1949)

THE REMEMBRANCES & DECLARATION READING

THE SALUTATION & COLLECT

God be with you.

And also with you.

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 Dianne, 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 People sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs.

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Proverbs 31:10-31 (NRSV)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL

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.

Psalms 23

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from the Revelation to John.

AND I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children." *Revelation 21:2-7 (NRSV)*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

SOLO ANTHEM AT THE SEQUENCE

Jesus Promised Me a Place

Text & music: John R. Sweeney (1837-1899)

The People stand.

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

JESUS said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man." *John 5:24-27 (NRSV)*

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People sit.

POEM

Angel Wings

THE HOMILY

The People stand.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

**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

The Deacon or other leader says

FOR our sister Dianne, 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 Dianne, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Silence may be kept.

The Celebrant concludes with the following prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Dianne 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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

THE peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

SOLO ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Soon and Very Soon

Text & music: André Crouch (1942-2015)

The People stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord, of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high -

est, ho - san - na in the high - est

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker and of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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 Jesus 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

OUR Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says an Invitation to Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Following Communion, the People stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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

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 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.

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

The Celebrant says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Dianne. 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. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the People. The People respond **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon or other Minister dismisses the People, saying
Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POST-SERVICE MUSIC

Going Up Yonder

Text & music: Walter Hawkins (1949-2010)



You are invited to a reception following the service

The family wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to each of you for your numerous expressions of love, compassion, and sympathy. Your thoughtful and well-chosen words and acts of kindness brought us comfort at a time of very deep sadness. They helped us to remember the brightness of Dianne's life and the extent of her contributions to our community. Your kindness and grace will be forever appreciated.

OBITUARY

DIANNE Ebbs, of Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away peacefully on August 4, 2026, surrounded by her family and loved ones. She was 79.

Born on November 4, 1946, in Knoxville, Tennessee, Dianne was the daughter of James N. and Agnes Hardin. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Tennessee and a Master's degree from the University of Cincinnati.

She is survived by her son, Charles E. Mize, Jr., and her brother, William “Billy” Hardin (Janice); nieces Kimberly, Dena, Michele, Erica and grand-niece Haley; nephews, William (Larry), Robert (Teresa), Billy Joseph (Diane), David, and a host of other grand-nieces, grand-nephews and in-laws. Dianne was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Peter Ebbs; and her brothers, Dr. Joseph Hardin and Dr. James Hardin, Jr. For more than 30 years, Dianne devoted her life to education and developing numerous future leaders. She began her teaching career in Knoxville, TN. She later taught and became a principal in the Mt. Healthy City School District before becoming the beloved principal of Robert E. Lucas Intermediate School in Princeton City Schools in Cincinnati, Ohio. She served in this capacity for over ten years. She later served as a superintendent of the W.E.B. DuBois School, inspiring generations of students, educators, and families through her compassionate leadership and unwavering belief that every child deserved the opportunity to succeed. Her dedication to young people extended beyond the classroom through community volunteerism and literacy programs that enriched the lives of countless children and families throughout the Cincinnati area.

A woman of deep faith, Dianne was a devoted member of Christ Church Cathedral, where she faithfully served in numerous ministries and leadership roles. Her service included the Acolyte Guild, Altar Guild, Lay Readers, Chalice Bearers, Vestry, and as both Junior and a Senior Warden. She also chaired Cincinnati Scholar House, served as Executive Director of the Summer Camp Reading Program, and led the Charles P. Taft Lecture Series. Dianne was a co-leader of the Reparations Task Force of the Diocese. Throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, she was widely respected for her work in social justice, reparative justice, and ministry, leaving an enduring impact on both her church and the greater Cincinnati community. Dianne served as the President of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), later receiving the distinct honor as President Emeritus of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

Dianne was also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Sigma Omega Chapter of Cincinnati, Ohio where she embraced the Sorority's enduring commitment to scholarship, service, sisterhood, and the betterment of the community. Through her church, civic, professional, and sorority affiliations, she exemplified a life dedicated to uplifting others.

Dianne found joy in music, reading, dancing, entertaining, and traveling the world, but her greatest happiness came from her family. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, sister, and friend whose greatest pride and joy is her son, Charles.

Visitation with the family will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Christ Church Cathedral, followed by a Celebration of Life service at 12:00 p.m. Dianne will be remembered for her unwavering faith, her love of family, her passion for educating children, and her lifelong commitment to serving others. She had a special gift of making you feel as if you were the most important person in the world through her deed and interactions. Her legacy of kindness, leadership, and compassion will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know her.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages acts of kindness and service in Dianne's memory, reflecting the generosity, faith, and compassion that defined her remarkable life.

Memorial gifts may be given to:
Summer Camp Reading
<https://www.summercampreading.org/make-a-difference>



or St. Jude Research Hospital

MINISTERS

Clergy

The Right Reverend Kristin Uffelman White, *Celebrant*

The Reverend Canon Aaron Rogers, *Preacher*

The Reverend Anne Reed, *Deacon*

The Very Reverend Owen Thompson, *Minister of Ceremonies*

The Reverend Doctor Benjamin E. K. Speare-Hardy II, *Assisting*

Remembrances

Billy Ebbs

Markay Winston

Readers

John Harris

Dr. Seena Skelton

Prince Brown

Robin Bagby

Intercessor

Larry Ebbs

Musician

The Reverend Freddie T. Piphus

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Pat Haug

John Moreland

Acolytes

Dianne Butler

Suzann Parker Leist

Karen Moreland

Ushers

Drew Abbott

Elizabeth Brown

Bertie Ray III

Paula Rose

Altar Guild

Bob Shawver



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Angel Wings

In Loving Memory of Lady Di

How do we say Thank You
to a phenomenal woman
who accomplished so many things?

Lady Di, we celebrate you fully,
for your gifts, your talents,
your wisdom, your grace,
and all the daily joys
you so effortlessly would bring.

Our lives were enriched by your wisdom,
your faith, your knowledge,
your unconditional love and grace,

you nurtured us with honesty and humility,
guiding us gently,
creating such a loving,
beautiful, and safe space.

It was no coincidence
that you knew what was needed
before we could figure it out,

you were an observer of our lives,
a champion when we needed one,
a divine vessel of wisdom,
a savant...without a doubt.

You saw beyond the words we spoke,
understood the things left unsaid,
and somehow always seemed to know
the path we needed to tread.

Your profound love for your family,
your son Chuck,
and your beloved husband Peter,
your soulmate,
gave you comfort and courage
to live each day fully,
to love deeply,
and to cherish every moment
until God opened
that Heavenly Gate.

So now it is your time,

Our Classy, Beautiful, Intelligent,
Fearless, Thoughtful, Purposeful
wife, mother,
and cherished friend,
your work here is finished but our
love for you will never end.

So listen as the church bells ring
Knowing you have given us your all...
Your EVERYTHING

Rest well dear Di

For you have truly earned...your ANGEL WINGS!!!

