

A Service of Remembrance  
Telling the Untold Stories of Our Past  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
February 10, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

**Opening Sentence & Collect**

Officiant: Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

People: *God's mercy endures forever.*

Officiant: Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

**Welcome**

Lisa Frost-Phillips

**Song:** "He was a planter; he was kind"

Mary Rocap

**"Stations" of Our Remembrance**

**1. Cornelia and Robert Fitzgerald**

Remarks

Lisa Frost-Phillips

Scripture: Romans 8: 35-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." 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.

Collect:

Holy and Gracious God, we give thanks for the lives of Cornelia and Robert Fitzgerald, whose commitment to education ensured that their children and their children's children would grow up with a knowledge and love of you. Instill in our hearts such love, and strengthen our commitment to education for all God's children, especially those least served, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**2. Brick Masons**

Remarks

Bob Morgan

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-19

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of

Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Collect:

Almighty God, we give thanks for those who toiled to lay the foundations of our church and the walls that surround it, creating, for all who follow, a place of rest and of beauty. Strengthen our commitment to the preservation of this place, in their honor, and inspire us to hold fast to their witness to perseverance and courage, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### 3. Kitty

Remarks

Becki Horne

Scripture: Song of Solomon 2: 10-13, 8: 6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me: Arise my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one and come away.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Collect:

Ever loving God, we give thanks for the life of Kitty, who served as a faithful witness to the bonds of human love. Strengthen our own bonds of love and affection through her witness, and sharpen our vision, that we might speak out against injustice, and love what is right and good; in the name of Jesus we pray. *Amen.*

### 4. Lydia

Remarks

Sally Greene

Scripture: Acts 16: 13-15

On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. ... When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Collect:

Jesus, Lamb of God, Bearer of sin, Bearer of suffering. We give thanks for the life of Lydia, for her witness to courage and strength. May she fly away and be welcomed home, where sorrow and pain are no more. Help us to continue the hard work of

binding up the wounds of our past, trusting in your forgiveness and mercy; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Song: "I'll Fly Away" (African-American Spiritual)

Mary Rocap

## 5. Mary Walker

Remarks

Elaine Druesedow

Scripture: Isaiah 49:13-18

- <sup>13</sup> Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the LORD has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.
- <sup>14</sup> But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me,  
my Lord has forgotten me."
- <sup>15</sup> Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?  
Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.
- <sup>16</sup> See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.
- <sup>17</sup> Your builders outdo your destroyers,  
and those who laid you waste go away from you.
- <sup>18</sup> Lift up your eyes all around and see;  
they all gather, they come to you.  
As I live, says the LORD,  
you shall put all of them on like an ornament,  
and like a bride you shall bind them on.

Collect:

O Lord, today we remember before you the life of Mary Walker, whose fierce love for her children and whose patient trust in your goodness reminds us of the steadfast love you bear for each of your children in every circumstance. Help us to be ever mindful of that love that sustains us in adversity and calls us to respect the dignity of every human being; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

## 6. Henry Evans

Remarks

Bob Ireland

Scripture: Matthew 13: 54-57

He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogues; so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? If not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their own country and in their own house.

Collect:

God of the trees, of all that is beautiful and lasting, of all that is just and true, we give thanks for the artistry and craftsmanship of Henry Evans, whose work has graced this place, and for his life, a witness to your truth and justice. May his legacy so inspire us, that we, in our own lives, may honor what is beautiful and lasting, and speak to what is just and true, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Prayers** (adapted from the Litany of Reconciliation from the Community of the Cross of Nails at Coventry Cathedral)

Officiant: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

People: *God forgive us.*

Officiant: For the covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

People: *God forgive us.*

Officiant: For the greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

People: *God forgive us.*

Officiant: For our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

People: *God forgive us.*

Officiant: For our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

People: *God forgive us.*

Officiant: For the lust which dishonors the bodies of men, women and children,

People: *God forgive us.*

Officiant: For the pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

People: *God forgive us.*

Officiant: Lord have mercy.

People: *Christ have mercy.*

Officiant: Lord have mercy.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: *Amen.*

**Closing Prayer** (adapted from the post communion prayer, Rite I, BCP)

All: *Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for this sacred time, that we might remember those whose lives are entwined in this place, but little known, and often forgotten. As we lift up their lives, we pray for the assurance of thy favor and goodness towards us; that, together, we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. Help us hold fast to this hope. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. And assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

**Concluding Song “Twelve Gates to the City”**

Oh, what a beautiful city / Oh, what a beautiful city / Oh, what a beautiful city  
There’s twelve gates to the city, Hallelu

Three gates in the east  
Three gates in the west  
Three gates in the north  
Three gates in the south  
There’s twelve gates to the city, Hallelu

Walk right in, you’re welcome  
Welcome Hallelu  
Walk right through those pearly gates  
Sing praises loud and true  
There’s twelve gates to the city, Hallelu

Oh, what a beautiful city / Oh, what a beautiful city / Oh, what a beautiful city  
There’s twelve gates to the city, Hallelu

See those children yonder  
Children all dressed in red  
They must be the children  
the children that Moses lead  
There’s twelve gates to the city, Hallelu

Rich and the poor are welcome  
Young and the old are too  
Weak and the strong are welcome  
I am and you are too  
There’s twelve gates to the city, Hallelu

Oh, what a beautiful city / Oh, what a beautiful city / Oh, what a beautiful city  
There’s twelve gates to the city, Hallelu

## Biographical Material

### Cornelia and Robert Fitzgerald

Cornelia and Robert Fitzgerald, maternal grandparents to Pauli Murray, have ties to Hillsborough and St. Matthew's. Robert came south from Pennsylvania to teach and establish schools for slaves recently emancipated. Cornelia was a lifelong and faithful member of the Episcopal Church, baptized and listed as "colored" at the Chapel of the Cross and later sponsoring three of her children, also listed as "colored," for baptism at St. Matthews.

### Brick Masons

The foundational bricks of St. Matthew's were likely made by enslaved servants of John Berry, master brick mason and self-taught builder/architect who oversaw the construction of the "core" of St. Matthew's as it currently stands (the tower and chancel extension were added later). These enslaved laborers were taught the art of brick masonry and granted freedom when they reached master status.

### Kitty

Kitty's story is that of two young slaves who seek to be married, and the complications that arise because they belong to different families. One of these families was that of the rector of St. Matthew's during the 1840s, the Rev. Moses Ashley Curtis.

### Lydia

Lydia was an enslaved woman in Chowan County. Her last name is lost to us, as is almost everything about her. She emerges briefly, and bravely, as the object of violence inflicted by a man who had hired her for a term. One day in March, 1829, John Mann beat her for misbehaving. She broke away, and, to arrest her flight, he shot her. Her owner compelled the state to charge Mann with assault and battery. A Chowan County jury found him guilty. On appeal, Judge Thomas Ruffin upheld Mann's right to resort to the use of a deadly weapon. "The power of the master must be absolute, to render the submission of the slave perfect," he wrote in *State v. Mann* (1829).

### Mary Walker

Mary Walker was an enslaved domestic servant in the Duncan Cameron household and mother of four children. She fled for refuge in the North in 1848 and spent the next seventeen years trying to reunite her family.

### Henry Evans

Henry Evans, a free black carpenter and member of St. Matthew's from 1840 to 1854, was recorded in our Parish Register as the "Maker of chancel furniture." After his departure from Hillsborough he and his brother became known for abolitionist activity in Oberlin, Ohio.

## Artwork

### Cornelia and Robert Fitzgerald

- ❖ Stole from the first "irregular" ordination of women to the priesthood, Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia July 29, 1974; Pauli Murray was the first African American woman ordained to the priesthood, January 8, 1977, at the Washington National Cathedral
- ❖ "Proud Shoes" decorated by Sierra Kenyon

### Brick Masons

- ❖ Photograph by Katherine Johnson of part of the old original wall at St. Matthew's

**Kitty**

- ❖ Pottery Birdbath by Amy Huacani. Inlaid are the words of the Prayer of St. Francis

**Lydia**

- ❖ Quilt by Mary Rocap, "Going Home Through the Cross"
- ❖ Icon of Lydia donated by Mimi & Dale Games

**Mary Walker**

- ❖ Stitching donated by Jean Finan
- ❖ Black Madonna and Child donated by Linda Beatrice Brown

**Henry Evans**

- ❖ Chair carved by Henry Evans

Canvases around the altar painted by St. Matthew's youth, representing "Beloved Community"

**Special Thanks to:**

- ❖ The Archives Committee and to Sally Greene without whom this service would not have been possible.
- ❖ Mary Rocap for her musical leadership