



**A Celebration of the Life of
Alexander Bolton**

March 28, 1992–October 9, 2021

The Rite of Burial and Holy Eucharist



**Tuesday, October 19, 2021 • 11am
St. Thomas Episcopal Church • Taunton, Massachusetts**

Prelude

Caroline Hine, Cellist

Please stand.

Opening Anthem

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.

Collect

The Lord 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 Alex, 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 Word of God

Hymn *Sung by all.*

I, the Lord of sea and sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3

Read by Tori Bolton

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 brokenhearted, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 *Said by all.*

Led by Travis Cobb

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 annointest 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 Second Reading: Revelation 7:9,14-17

Read by Jeff Bolton

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: John 14:1-6

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Remembrance

Michele Morgan-Bolton

The Homily

The Reverend Joseph Mumita

The Apostles' Creed *Please stand.*

In the assurance of eternal life, 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For our brother Alex, 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 Alex 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 brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Father of all, we pray to you for Alex, 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

**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 people kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.

He 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 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

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

The Lord's Prayer *Said by 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 Breaking of the Bread

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

Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited to the altar to receive communion. You may kneel or stand at the Altar Rail. The bread is received in the open palm, right hand over left. If you do not wish to receive Communion, but would like a blessing, come forward to the Altar Rail and cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymn *Sung by all.*

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: “My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!”**

Refrain: **“And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.”**

**Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God’s wings your refuge
with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain***

**For to the angels God’s given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain***

Postcommunion Prayer

**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

Anthem

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 Alex Bolton. 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. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Hymn *Sung by all.*

Lift high the cross

Refrain: **Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore
his sacred Name.**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.** *Refrain*

**Each new-born servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.** *Refrain*

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.** *Refrain*

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory.** *Refrain*

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

Caroline Hine, Cellist

Participants in the Service

Officiant and Preacher
Organist
Soloist
Cellist

The Reverend Joseph Mumita
Atsuko Jozaki
Nancy Gustafson
Caroline Hine

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Alexander Glover Morgan Bolton, 29

A Loving Son, Brother, and Friend

A Courageous Soldier

March 28, 1992–October 9, 2021

Thank you on behalf of the Morgan and Bolton families for the outpouring of love shown since Alex's death – and for sharing today in the celebration of the life of this amazing son, brother, cousin, nephew, friend, and retired soldier in the 10th Mountain Division of the US Army.

In the days since Alex left us, we have heard many incredible stories about the impact he had on your lives. How he helped so many just by listening, by telling a crazy story, or by reminding someone who felt no worth that they had good reason to keep going.

Alex didn't have an easy life and there were times that he felt like giving up. He slipped through the cracks so many times and fought constantly for his rights. We fought with him. Sometimes he didn't have the strength or was too sick. It was then that he'd reach deep within to find the indomitable will that kept him going, without complaint, even in the direst pain.

Alex expected his illness from Afghanistan to progressively take his life, certainly not a bullet on the streets of Albany near where he grew up. But here we are.

So today we ask you to pray for Alex. Remember him fondly. Say his name often. Think of his smile. Feel relieved that he is in the embrace of heaven and his loved ones, with no more pain. Take action and do something to end gun violence. Don't let his death have been in vain. #JusticeForAlex