

A Service of Remembrance
and Thanksgiving

Joan Ann Huzar

February 28, 1946 – August 7, 2025



The Church of St John the Divine
1611 Quadra Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2L5

Order of Service

Saturday, September 6
2:00 pm

Officiants:

The Reverend Pam Worthington

The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

The Reverend Stephanie Wood

Sentences of Scripture

“I am the resurrection and the life”, says Jesus. “Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. *(John 11:25-26)*

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. *(Romans 8:38-39)*

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore, encourage one another with these words. *(1 Thessalonians 4:14,17b,18)*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is God’s faithfulness. *(Lamentations 3:22-23)*

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. *(Matthew 5:4)*

Introduction

We meet in the name of Jesus the Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father. Grace and mercy be with you.

We are but guests upon this hallowed Land, long treasured and cared for by our Esquimalt and Songhees siblings. Today, as always, we give thanks for their graciousness and vow to continue working toward a genuine relationship of truth, trust and reconciliation.

We’ve come here today to remember and honour before God our beloved sister **JOAN**, to give thanks for her life; to commend her to God our merciful Creator and Redeemer, to commit her ashes to their final rest, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

God of all consolation, your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus, his friend. Look with compassion on all your children in their loss; give to troubled hearts the light of hope, and strengthen in us the gift of faith, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Tributes

By Loved Ones

Hymn (CP 278)

Ewing



1. Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blessed,
beneath thy contemplation
sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not
what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.
2. They stand, those halls of Sion,
all jubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel
and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene,
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.

Please turn page for verses 3-4



3. There is the throne of David,
and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph,
the song of them that feast;
and they who with their leader
have conquered in the fight,
forever and forever
are clad in robes of white.
4. O sweet and blessed country,
the home of God's elect;
O dear and future vision,
that eager hearts expect:
Even now by faith we see thee,
even here thy walls discern;
to thee our thoughts are kindled;
for thee our spirits yearn.

Text: Bernard of Cluny (12th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.
Music: Alexander Ewing (1830-1895).

The Collect (Prayer for funerals):

As we stand, let us pray:

All: Loving and compassionate God, hear our prayers and comfort us. Renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead. Strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1st Reading “On My Last Day here on Earth”

Read by **Joel Hefty**

“On my last day here on Earth, let me be like I was on my very first day! ~let me be ready for my great voyage between worlds. ~let me be ready to ride the cosmic river of the vast unknown.

On my last day here on Earth, let me be like I was on my very first! ~ **let me be** ready to see what all the fuss is on the other side of the womb that I've been hearing so much about. ~ **let me be** ready to be bathed in a light that I could never have imagined. ~ **let me be** ready to be held in the arms of my lovely creator and to feel safer than I ever have before.

On my last day here on Earth, let me be like I was on my very first! ~ **let me be** ready to see the smiling faces of all those who have been eagerly waiting to meet me. ~ **let me be** ready to be swaddled up in the warmest cotton blanket of fresh stars.

On my last day here on Earth, let me be like I was on my very first, covered in the miracle of creation. No wonder newborn babies cry! No wonder 50-year-old men cry! It's all such an adventure! It's all such a journey! It's all such a circle! It's all such a flowing river! It's all such an endless passage! **It's all such a Mystery!** And it goes on and on and on and on and on. ~ **It all goes on** and we go on and on and on and on and on and on. ~ **we all go on.** Oh, divine light! Oh, sacred spirit! Oh God! Please let me go on and on and on and on and on! Oh, I can't wait to see what comes next!" (by John Roedel)

Psalm 31:1-5

In you, O GOD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; * **deliver me in your righteousness**

Incline your ear to me; * **make haste to deliver me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; * **for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, * **for you are my tower of strength.**

Into your hands I commend my spirit, * **for you have redeemed me, O GOD, O God of truth.**

2nd Reading: "Crossing the Bar"

Read by *Margaret Walker*

Sunset and evening star, And one clear call for me! And may there be no moaning of the bar, When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep, Too full for sound and foam, When that which drew from out the boundless deep Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell, And after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place The flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face When I have cross'd the bar.

(by Alfred, Lord Tennyson)

Hymn

He Who Would Valiant Be

NEW OBEDIENCE

Words: John Bunyan, 1684. Modified by Percy Dearmer, 1906.
Music: 'Monks Gate' traditional English. Setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1904.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2006 Revision.

♩ = 120



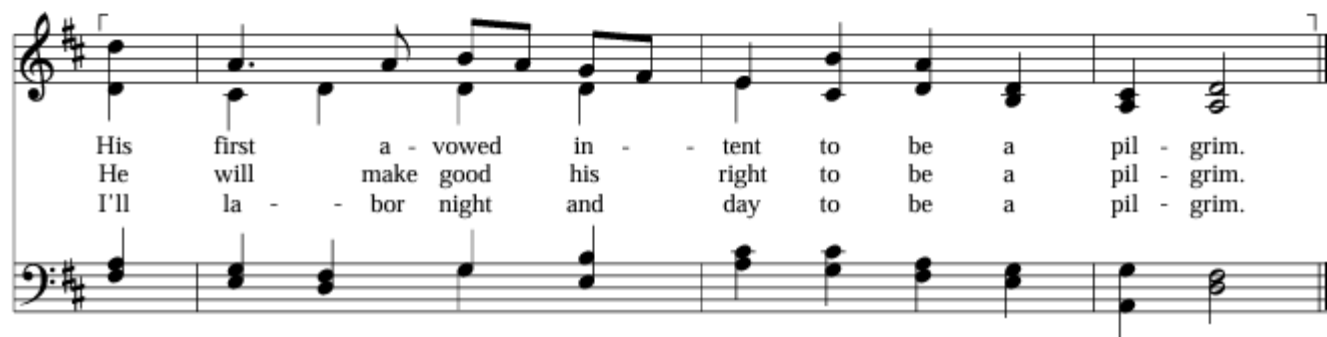
1. He who would val - iant be 'gainst all dis - a - ster,
2. Who so be - set him round with dis - mal stor - ies
3. Since, Lord, Thou dost de - fend us with Thy Spi - rit,



Let him in con - stan - cy fol - - low the Mas - ter.
Do but them - selves con - found his strength the more is.
We know we at the end, shall life in - her - it.



There's no dis - cour - age - - ment shall make him once re - lent
No foes shall stay his might; though he with gi - ants fight,
Then fan - cies flee a - - way! I'll fear not what men say,



His first a - vowed in - - tent to be a pil - grim.
He will make good his right to be a pil - grim.
I'll la - - bor night and day to be a pil - grim.

Success by Ralph Waldo Emerson

To laugh often and love much;
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the approval of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To give of one's self;
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch,
or a redeemed social condition;
To have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived . . .
This is to have succeeded.

Address/Sermon

Prayers of Intercession (Prayers of the People)

Led by *Kit Pearson*

We pray for God's grace and love in our loss, for the memory of those we have loved and for all those who mourn.

To the words "God, in your love", we respond ...

All: "hear our prayer"

God of grace, God of life, you have made us in your image to reflect your truth and light: we give you thanks for our beloved **JOAN**, for the grace and mercy she received from you, for all that was good in her life, for the memories we treasure today. [*Especially we thank you for ...*]

God, in your love ...

All: hear our prayer

You promised eternal life to your people. Remember for good this your servant **JOAN** as we also remember her. Bring all who rest in Christ into the fullness of your love where death is no more, only life everlasting.

God, in your love ...

All: hear our prayer

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief and life out of death. Look in mercy on all who mourn. Give them patient faith in times of darkness. Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love. [*Especially we pray for ...*]

God in your love ...

All: hear our prayer

You are tender towards your children and your mercy is over all your works. Heal memories of hurt and failure. Give us the wisdom and grace to use well the time that is left to us here on earth, to follow in the way of Christ that leads to fullness of life.

God in your love ...

All: hear our prayer.

All: God of truth, entrusting into your hands all that you have made and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people, we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. *(Adapted from Common Worship: Pastoral Services)*

Let us now pray with confidence as our Saviour Christ has taught us:

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn (CP 425)

Hymn to Joy



1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

**3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
all who live in love are thine,
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

Text: Henry van Dyke (1852-1933), alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); arr. Edward Hodges (1796-1867).

Commendation and Farewell:

All: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant JOAN with all your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. You only are immortal, the Creator and Maker of all; 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 daughter JOAN with all your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Let us commend **JOAN** to the mercy of God, our Maker and Redeemer.

Silence is kept

Loving and compassionate God, by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory. Confident of his victory and claiming his promises, we entrust **JOAN ANN** to your mercy. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, who died and is alive and reigns with you, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Committal

God is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great goodness. As a parent is tender toward their children, so is the Lord tender to those who come to him. For God knows of what we are made, remembering that we are but dust. Our days are like the grass. We flourish like a flower of the field; when the wind goes over it, it is gone and its place will know it no more. But the merciful goodness of our God endures forever and for all.

We have entrusted our sister **JOAN** to God’s mercy. And now: In sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to our Loving Creator our sister **JOAN ANN HUZAR**, and we commit her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her and give her peace.

All: Amen.

Closing Prayer

Support us, O Christ, all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, Loving God, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing

And now: the Peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's son, Christ Jesus. And the blessing of God – Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit – be with you, with those you love and with all of creation ... now and forever.

All: Amen.

We give thanks for the beautiful and inspiring life of our beloved **Joan Ann Huzar**; may she **Rest in Peace** and **Rise in Glory**!

All: Amen!

The family warmly invites you to join them for refreshments and fellowship in the Baumann Centre, please follow the Crucifer to the entrance of St. John's Court for entry.

Recessional Music

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Organist: David Stratkauskas  
Crucifer: Terry Needham  
Verger: David Pupak  
Greeters: Nancy Baal, Richard Routledge

## Obituary

Joan succumbed to cancer on August 7, 2025, in Victoria Hospice.

Born in Toronto, February 28, 1946, to Denison (Denny) Harle Featherstonhaugh and Margaret Ann (Ann) Wilson, Joan grew up in Richmond Hill, Ontario. She attended St. Clement's School in Toronto, Glendon College at York University, where she met her future husband Bill, and the University of Toronto. A supreme athlete and swimmer, Joan was inducted into the York University Sports Hall of Fame in 1980.

Graduating with honours History and a Bachelor of Library Science, Joan began teaching in Richmond Hill shortly after her marriage to Bill on July 11, 1970.

Joan and Bill moved to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario in 1975 after accepting teaching jobs. Joan retired from teaching in 1977 with the birth of daughter Alice and, two years later, son Peter.

The family moved to Goderich, Ontario in 1987, and Joan lived there until a final move to Victoria, BC, in 2003, where she lived in Oak Bay before moving to Colwood.

Joan was never really a stay-at-home mom. She was introduced to the consumer movement by a neighbour, and eventually became President of the Ontario Branch of the Consumers Association of Canada and national Vice-President.

In 1995, Joan and a group of likeminded colleagues founded the Consumers Council of Canada in which she played a leadership role as President for seven years. As a leading consumer rights advocate she held executive positions on the Ontario New Home Warranty Program (now Tarion), the National Fire and Building Code Commission (12 years) and as a consumer representative for the Canadian Standards Association (20+ years).

Upon arriving in Victoria in 2003, a friend drew Joan into what is now the Gallery Associates, a volunteer fundraising committee of the Board of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. She served two terms as Associates President, three years as Associates Treasurer and convened four consecutive Art Gallery House Tours.

Joan was also a proud member of the IODE (formerly Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire) Maple Leaf Branch (Goderich) where she was Regent, and the Garry Oak Branch in Victoria.

Involvement in church was always part of her life. First at St. Luke's Cathedral (Sault Ste Marie), St. George's (Goderich), and finally at St. John the Divine (Victoria) where she served as People's Warden, Greeter, Finance Committee Chair and pie maker extraordinaire.

Joan is survived by her husband Bill, daughter Alice, son Peter, and god-daughter Amanda MacKenzie (Jason) of Victoria, and brother David (Dale) of Ottawa.

A memorial service will be held The Church of St. John the Divine, 1611 Quadra Street, Victoria Saturday September 6, 2025, followed by a reception at the Bauman Centre 925 Balmoral Road.

Her ashes will be interred with her parents and ancestors in the family cemetery, St. John on the Humber, Toronto.

Donations appreciated in Joan's name to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation, or the Boiler Replacement Fund at St. John the Divine in lieu of flowers.