

In thanksgiving for the life of

Leslie Anne Roach

January 1965 to September 2025

Memorial Service St. Thomas Anglican Church, Chilliwack BC October 25, 2025 – 1pm

As people of faith and hope we are comforted by the sure knowledge that those of us who have gone from us to God are no further from us than God, and God is very near.



A note about today's service from her family:

In going through Leslie Anne's effects, we found copies of funeral and memorial services she had attended at Christ Church Cathedral, and we have modelled today's service on those as well as the funeral liturgies for her parents.

The rites of the Anglican Church focus more on words and songs of faith than stories about the deceased. We know that Leslie Anne would both recognize and appreciate this.

This gathering is set in the context of holy communion. Bread and wine will be blessed and shared as a sign of God's love. All are welcome to receive the bread and wine or a blessing.

Leslie Anne's family are grateful for your presence and participation today.

Gifts in Leslie Anne's memory may be made to St. Thomas Anglican Church. Please mark all donations to Memorial Garden Fund in Memory of Leslie Roach. More information is available: https://www.stthomaschilliwack.org/pages/give.

Cover image is an arrangement that Leslie Anne recently created as part of her activities with Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley. Photo by Victor Froese.

Leslie Anne Roach

Artist and spiritual seeker, teacher, gardener and gentle spirit, Leslie Anne was a much-loved spouse, sister and friend. The second child to Richard and Elizabeth Roach, Leslie Anne was born in Calgary, Alberta just a year after her brother David and two and half years before her brother Thomas. Growing up with two gregarious brothers, she learned early on how to be her own person and create a sense of harmony in the household. Her family knows her as Leslie Anne, but to everyone else she was Leslie.

At junior high school she discovered a love for theatre and social studies. She spent a community building summer on youth staff at the Sorrento Centre, a place that she would revisit many times. By late high school she chose to pursue teaching as a vocation. After completing a degree in Education at the University of Calgary, she set out to explore the world, beginning with a year in Japan where she taught English as a second language. Leslie's great sense of adventure motivated her to extend her time away, diverting through the Philippines, Thailand, China and Hong Kong on her way home.



Upon her return she began teaching in elementary schools in Northern Alberta for two years. A summer trip to Vancouver in 1990 reawakened her love of the west coast, a love that had begun with family vacations in Victoria visiting paternal grandparents. Extending the summer trip, she settled in Vancouver and continued her teaching work in ESL. She made Christ Church Cathedral her church home. A lifelong Anglican, Leslie found in the Cathedral community a deep sense of belonging. At CCC she made many deep friendships through her participation in the greeting team, parish singers, disciple bible study, and the altar guild. When her brother Thomas also moved to Vancouver, they collaborated on many projects especially decorating the Cathedral for festivals.

She continued her ESL teaching in Burnaby and her ability to connect with students made her a popular and much-loved instructor. Her spirit of adventure took her to Spain to walk the Camino with a group of pilgrims; and explored Ireland and the UK.

She wished to build a life with a spouse and in 2005 met Bruce Friesen; they put their lives together, married in 2008, and made their home in Burnaby. Travels with Bruce included a cruise to the Mexican Riviera, and an autumn trip through Ontario and Quebec. They enjoyed many

times at his family cottage in Comox. Leslie's participation in the Cathedral grew, and with her low-key, but persuasive power convinced Bruce to join her for Sunday services: he enjoyed the music and community, sometimes even assisting with festival decorating.

When the pressures of teaching led Leslie to reluctantly leave her work, she embraced her passion for the floral arts. She was able to exercise her creativity and increase her knowledge of flowers, eventually joining the BC Floral Art Society. In 2019, she returned to the UK to visit family, tour gardens and visit one of the big flower shows.

Moving to Chilliwack in 2023 brought them nearer to Bruce's mother and the Friesen family farm in Yarrow – a space for her to explore and develop her passion for growing flowers. She became an active member of Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley. In addition to winning prizes in various exhibitions for her floral arrangements, she frequently shared her creations with family and friends.

She became part of St. Thomas's Anglican Church in Chilliwack, connecting with the Reverend Lorie Martin who recognized Leslie's gifts and encouraged her leadership in the parish. For many years, Leslie had explored her creativity through collage, particularly a practice of Soul Collage. She had new opportunities to share some of her learning with the community. A highlight of this past summer was a trip to Cortes Island in August to participate in a Soul Collage retreat at Hollyhock Centre.

Her sudden, unexpected and untimely death has left a big hole in the lives of her husband Bruce; brother David and his wife Linda; and brother Thomas and his husband Peter. Already we miss her friendly conversation, her deep empathy, her easy laughter and her wide knowledge of the world of plants and animals. Although she was no stranger to the struggles that life can bring, she had a resilient but gentle spirit and an amazing capacity to connect easily and well with

strangers and friends alike. Her web of connection spanned time and distance including high school friends, colleagues, neighbors, and fellow church goers. It is both deeply sad and also comforting to know that in the recent months Leslie seemed to really be living her best life — connected with family, friends, church, and community while exploring her creativity and the world with curiosity. It seems deeply unfair that her life was cut short.

We miss her more than we can say.

We know that the Holy One will recognize her – as a flower of God's own garden.



Gathering of the Community

Please Stand as the Clergy and Family enter. Ubi Caritas



Presider: In this time and place, with respect we gather on the traditional, ancestral

and unceded lands of the Stó:lō people,

All: From many places and peoples, we come to this house of prayer.

Presider: In this time and place we meet to give thanks for the life of Leslie Anne,

to offer our grief and sadness at her death and to surround her family

with love,

All: May God the Creator give us comfort and strength.

Presider: In this time and place we give thanks for the resurrection power of Jesus

Christ, the Word made Flesh,

All: The risen Christ who brings healing to us and all people.

Presider: In this time and place, God's Holy Spirit breathes in and through us,

All: The Holy Spirit who transforms us and all life.

Presider: In this time and place, together, one people of God.

All: In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please be seated as the Reverend Lorie Martin welcomes the congregation.

Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King

(CP 355, selected verses)

- 1. All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing: alleluia, alleluia! Bright burning sun and golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- 4. Earth ever fertile, day by day unfold your blessings on our way, O sing now, alleluia! All flowers and fruit that in you grow, God's glory let them also show: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- 5. All you with mercy in your heart, forgiving others, take your part, alleluia, alleluia! All you that pain and sorrow bear, sing praise and cast on God your care: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- 6. And even you, most gentle death,
 waiting to hush our final breath, O sing now, Alleluia!
 You lead back home the child of God,
 for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- 7. Let all things their creator bless and worship God in humbleness, alleluia, alleluia! Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Collect

O God, the maker and redeemer of all, grant us, with your beloved child Leslie Anne and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection; that in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-3

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 broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, 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.

Reader All Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 87

(translation by Nan Merrill)

In the heavenly realm stands the City of light; the Beloved welcomes all who come to its gate all who have surrendered themselves to love.

Glories await you within the citadel, within the City of Light. Among those who enter are the humble and kind those who reflect peace and radiate integrity, those who have faced darkness with love by their side.

Prepare yourselves for the City of Light all you who hear; for the Most High reigns there in glory.

Your name is written in the holy register when you face the Recorder, who will blush with regret and who will join the heavenly chorus?

Those who live by the Spirit of Love will know joy and harmony in the everlasting Dance of the Cosmos.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong-doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader All Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God

Hymn Alleluia (CP 405)

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the Risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the king of creation. Refrain

2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and risen. Refrain

3. We have been crucified with Christ: now we shall live forever. Refrain

4. Come, let us praise the living God, Joyfully sing to our Savior. Refrain

Reader All Reader All The Lord be with you **And also with you**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-15

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Reader All This is the Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Reverend Alisdair Smith.

Apostles Creed

Presider

All

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we 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.

Prayers of the People

Leader Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, we thank you for Leslie Anne, who was so near and dear to us, and is now no longer with us. We thank you for the friendship she gave, for the joy she expressed in encountering others, the love, peace and caring she offered. Thank you for her faithful loyalty to her husband, her brothers, her family and her beloved friends.

God in your love,

All Hear our prayer.

Thank you for blessing her with creative gifts in floral arts, and collage, and for the opportunities to share those gifts with others. We pray that nothing good in Leslie Anne's life will be lost but will be of benefit to the world; that all that was important to her will be respected by those who follow; and that everything good in her life will continue to mean much

to us now that she is no longer with us.

God in your love,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader We give thanks for the compassionate care given to Leslie Anne by

bystanders, neighbours, first responders, medical teams and all who ministered to her and her family after the tragic accident. We pray for all who were affected, asking you to surround us all with your gracious love

and presence.

God in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader We ask you that we who were close to her may now, because of her death, be even closer to each other, and that we may, in peace and

friendship here on earth, always be deeply conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death.

God in your love,

All Hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for ourselves, who are severely tested by this death, that we do

not try to minimize this loss, or seek refuge from it in words alone, and also that we do not brood over it so that it overwhelms us and isolates us

from others.

May God grant us courage and confidence in the new life of Christ. We

ask this in the name of the risen Lord.

God in your love

All Hear our prayer for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace Presider **All**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn

Spirit of Gentleness



2. You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land; and when they were blinded with their idols and lies, then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain

3. You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still: and down in the city you called once again, when you blew thro' your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes, from the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams: our women see visions, our men clear their eyes, with bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain

Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God of mercy, accept the worship we offer you this day. Increase, we

pray, our faith, deepen our hope and comfort us in your eternal love.

We ask this in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider May God be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord

Presider Let us give thanks to God our Creator
All It is right to give our thanks and praise

Presider It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of

all. We praise you here where the Fraser River meets the Salish Sea, where city and farm, wilderness and industry are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again. We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They

knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens. Together with angels and ancestors, orca and salmon, bear and raven, salal and cedar we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honour song:

Sanctus (sung)

O holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

Presider

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of famers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

Again, after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation. Bring us with Leslie Anne and all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come. All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ and Spirit, now and forever.

All (sung)

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen! Lord's Prayer J Philip Newell

Presider Gathering our prayers into one we pray:

All Mother of life, Father of the universe,

your name is sacred, beyond speaking.

May we know your presence,

may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.

May there be food for the human family today

and for the whole earth community.

Forgive us the falseness of what we have done

as we forgive those who are untrue to us. Do not forsake us in our time of conflict

but lead us into new beginnings.

For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life

are yours now and forever.

Amen

At the Breaking of the Bread

Presider This is the bread which has come down from heaven.

All Those who eat this bread will live forever.

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

All Thanks be to God.

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be offered at stations in the church, follow the direction of the ushers.

Music through communion: Here I am Lord; Eat this Bread (CP 63)

Prayer After Communion

Presider God of love, you have fed us at the table of your kingdom.

Teach us to trust without fear, in your eternal goodness and mercy.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All Amen.

Doxology Glory to God,

All whose power, working in us,

can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation,

in the church and in Christ Jesus,

forever and ever. Amen.

Commendation

Hymn Lord of All Hopefulness

(CP 506)

- 1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy, be there at our waking and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, be there at our labors and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3. Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, be there at our homing and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Presider

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

All

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.

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

Presider

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant, Leslie Anne. Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming, a flower of your own garden.

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.

All Amen.

Presider:

Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord

All

And may light perpetual shine upon her.

Presider

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful, rest in peace and rise, with Christ in glory.

All Amen.

Blessing

The presider will bless the congregation and invite all to follow the clergy and family to the Memorial Garden during the hymn.

Hymn O God our Help in Ages Past

(CP 528)

- 1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
- 2. under the shadow of Thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defence is sure.
- 3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.
- 4. A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone, short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

- 5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
- 6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

At the Memorial Garden

When all have assembled, the Presider will lead this litany while the ashes are poured out.

Leader Into the darkness and warmth of the earth

All We lay you down

Leader Into the sadness and smiles of our memories

All We lay you down

Leader Into the cycle of living and dying and rising again

All We lay you down

Leader May you rest in peace, in fulfillment, in love
All May you run straight home into God's embrace.

Leader Into the freedom of wind and sunshine

All We let you go

Leader Into the dance of the stars and the planets

All We let you go

Leader Into the wind's breath and the hands of the Starmaker

All We let you go

Leader We love you; we miss you; we want you to be eternally happy

All Go safely, go dancing, go running home.

Presider In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life

through our Saviour Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God, our beloved Leslie Anne, whose body has been consumed by fire;

earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

God bless her and keep her, God make Her face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, God lift up Her countenance upon her

and give her peace.

All Amen.

Deacon Let us go in peace to love and care for one another.

All Thanks be to God.

Leadership in the Liturgy:

Presider The Reverend Lorie MartinDeacon & Preacher The Reverend Alisdair SmithAt the Crematorium The Reverend Jeffrey Preiss

Readers Andrea Gailus, Deborah Edwards

Intercessor Peter DeGroot

Server Nancy den Boesterd

Communion The Reverend Helen Dunn-Wilson

Administrators Ian Birtwell, Joanna Bravo,

Shauna Fortin, Sheila Wex

Greeters Kerry Baisley, Deborah Edwards, Jane Osler,

Dennis Horvath, Liberty Murombedzi

Music Maureen Hollins, organ and piano

Jan Gruretzki, Gail Hampson, Lesley MacMillan

Reception St Thomas Volunteers

Flowers Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley

Funeral Services Walkey & Company Funeral Directors

The family is deeply grateful for the care and compassion of:

Neighbours and witnesses who assisted at the accident scene. Chilliwack RCMP and other first responders.

The ER Trauma and ICU-A teams including doctors, nurses, social workers and staff at Royal Columbian Hospital.



Special thanks to family and friends for sharing pictures and stories.



All are invited to a light reception following the service in the Parish Hall.