

# Outer Banks Presbyterian Church

## Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina

**A Service of Witness to the Resurrection  
And Thanksgiving for the Life Of**

**Leah Renee Williamson**

**July 23, 1970 ~  
September 22, 2016**



**Saturday, October 1, 2016  
1:00 pm**

*The service of Death and Resurrection is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.*

*This service, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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."*

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that the one we love has entered into a nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.*

# The Order of Service

✠ Congregation standing as able

## ~ We Gather Together As God's People ~

THE PIANO/ORGAN PRELUDE..... Jason Evans & Steve Blackstock

✠ THE HYMN OF PROCESSION NO. 69: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" ..... HERE I AM (Schutte)

✠ THE WORDS OF GRACE & GREETING (*Spoken in Unison*)

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb. Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising, Christ restored our life. Christ will come again in glory. As in baptism Leah put on Christ, so in Christ may Leah be clothed with glory. Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children. What we shall be has not yet been revealed; but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Those who have this hope purify themselves as Christ is pure. Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died and behold I am alive forevermore, and I hold the keys of hell and death. Because I live, you shall live also.**

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

LEADER: Let us pray.

✠ THE INVOCATION

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant, Leah, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE INTRODUCTION TO THE HYMN ..... The Rev. Spottswood Graves

✠ THE HYMN NO. 840: "When Peace like a River" .....VILLE DU HAVRE

## ~ The Word of the Lord ~

THE PSALM (*Spoken in Unison*) .....Psalm 23

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

THE CHORAL ANTHEM: “Refuge” ..... Keith Christopher  
The Sanctuary Choir

I am your refuge, I am your strength. I am your helper in time of trouble; so do not fear for I am your God. (based on Psalm 46: 1-2)

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON.....Revelation 21: 1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 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.’

THE NAMING & WITNESSING

Rose Fennell..... Family  
Denee McKnight ..... Friends  
Carol Trotman ..... Church  
The Rev. Spottswood Graves ..... Friends  
Nelson Marr ..... Community

THE CHORAL ANTHEM: “All Rise”.....arr. David T. Clydesdale  
The Sanctuary Choir  
Natalie Drummond, Soloist

THE GOSPEL LESSON .....Luke 23: 33, 39-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

THE HOMILY .....The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

### ~We Respond to the Word~

✦THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Spoken in Unison*) ..... (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

**In the death of Jesus Christ God’s way in the world seemed finally defeated. But death was no match for God. The resurrection of Jesus was God’s victory over death. Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living, that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing. We do not yet see the end**

of death. But Christ has been raised from the dead, transformed, and yet the same person. In His resurrection is the promise of ours. We are convinced the life God wills for each of us is stronger than the death that destroys us. The glory of that life exceeds our imagination but we know we shall be with Christ. So we treat death as a broken power. Its ultimate defeat is certain. In the face of death we grieve. Yet in hope we celebrate life. No life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Spoken in Responsively)*

ONE: For Leah, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and I am the Life." Lord, you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Leah and dry the tears of those who weep.

**ALL: Hear us, Lord.**

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

**ALL: Hear us, Lord.**

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

**ALL: Hear us, Lord.**

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

**ALL: Hear us, Lord.**

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

**ALL: Hear us, Lord.**

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

**ALL: Hear us, Lord.**

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

#### THE SILENT PRAYERS

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken in Unison)*

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**~ We Commend Our Sister to God ~**

#### ✠ THE COMMENDATION *(Spoken in Responsively)*

ONE: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant, Leah, with your saints

**ALL: Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing but life everlasting.**

ONE: 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 us, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us to dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**ALL: Give rest, O Christ to your servant, Leah, 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, Leah Williamson. 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.**

## **~ We Go Forth in Jesus' Name ~**

✦ THE BENEDICTION

✦ THE HYMN OF SENDING NO. 442: "Just as I Am, without One Plea" ..... WOODWORTH

THE PIANO/ORGAN POSTLUDE ..... Jason Evans & Steve Blackstock

**All are invited to greet the family at a reception in Leah's memory  
in the fellowship hall immediately following the service.**

---

## **~ Service Participants ~**

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore, Officiate

The Rev. Spottswood Graves, Co-Officiate

Mr. Jason Evans, Director of Music Ministries/Pianist

Mr. Steve Blackstock, Organist

Mrs. Nonie Booth, Volunteer Choir Assistant

Mrs. Rose Fennell, Mrs. Denee McKnight,  
Mrs. Carol Trotman and Mr. Nelson Marr, Eulogists

The Sanctuary Choir

Natalie Drummond, Soloist

## - Obituary -



Kitty Hawk -Leah Renee Williamson 46, of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on the morning of Thursday, September 22, 2016 at Vident Medical Center in Greenville, NC. Leah was predeceased by her mother Marlene Williamson in 2013.

Ms. Williamson was born in 1970 in Washington, DC and raised by her parents, Thomas and Marlene along with her sister Keri in Bladensburg, MD. She graduated from Queen Anne High School in Upper Marlboro, MD in 1988 and entered the University of Maryland, College Park, MD from which she graduated in 1992.

Leah owned and operated her own graphics design company in Washington, DC until she moved to Kitty Hawk, NC in 2015, because of illness. She joined the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church where she participated in the Presbyterian Women Circle and assisted with program design projects.

Leah R. Williamson is survived by her father Thomas Williamson of Kitty Hawk; her sister, Keri L. Williamson of Kill Devil Hills, NC; her aunts, Evelyn Williamson and Viola Williamson both of Lansing, Michigan; her uncle Russell Thompson of St. Johns, Michigan, and a host of cousins, other relatives, neighbors, and many loving friends.

A service of witness of the resurrection will be conducted at 1 pm Saturday October 1, 2016 at the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church 907 S. Croatan Highway (Milepost 8.5) Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948. Pastor, Reverend Jody Moore will officiate. The family will receive friends at church following the services.

Condolences to the Williamson family may be expressed at [www.gallopfuneralservices.com](http://www.gallopfuneralservices.com). Gallop Funeral Services, Inc. was entrusted with arrangements.





The Williamson Family  
Tom, Marlene, Keri and Leah



**- Acknowledgments -**

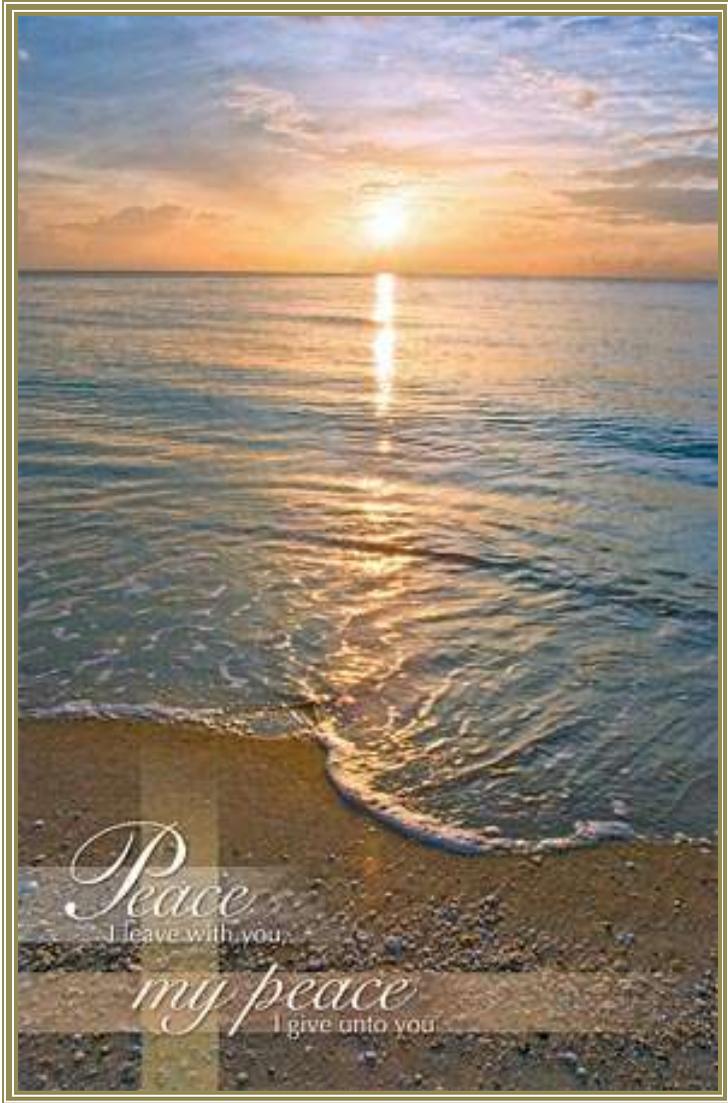
The family wishes to thank all of you for your concern, generosity and care throughout our bereavement. As we thank God for you, we ask your continued prayers so that we will soon see that “this too, shall pass”. We also wish to thank those who helped with the arrangements for this service:

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore, Mr. Jason Evans, Mrs. Donna Frye, Mrs. Nonie Booth  
and the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church

Courtney Gallop and Gallop Funeral Service  
Nags Head, NC

Warren & Tess Judge at Days Inn Oceanfront  
Kill Devil Hills, NC

and all of our many caring friends, family and neighbors.



**Outer Banks Presbyterian Church**

[www.outerbankspresbyterian.org](http://www.outerbankspresbyterian.org)

907 S. Croatan Highway / P.O. Box 2199

Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

252.441.5897

