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

Helena Couch Beshens

November 22, 1931 ~
December 7, 2020

Wednesday, December 16, 2020
11:00 am

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 PRELUDE.................................................................Jason Evans, Organist

THE SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Old Rugged Cross”.................................OLD RUGGED CROSS

Judith Speidel, soloist

†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 Helen put on Christ, so in Christ may Helen 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 Christ as he is. Those who have this hope purify themselves as Christ is pure. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and I am the 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, Helen, 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 SPECIAL MUSIC: "How Great Thou Art”.................................THEN SINGS MY SOUL

Judith Speidel, soloist

~ The Word of the Lord ~

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ........................................... Isaiah 65: 17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—as and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.
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 the 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 PIANO TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND: “My Tribute”................................. Andre’ Crouch
Jason Evans, pianist

THE EPISTLE LESSON............................................................................ II Corinthians 4: 16-5:1
So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC: “When Peace Like a River”............................ VILLE DU HAVR
Judith Speidel, soloist

THE GOSPEL LESSON........................................................................... Matthew 5: 1-12
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then 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 righteousness’ sake, 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.”

LEADER: This Is the Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

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

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Spoken in Unison).............................. The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic (universal) church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

~ We Respond to the Word ~

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Spoken Responsively)

ONE: For Helen, 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 Helen 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

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 Responsively)

ONE: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant, Helen, 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, Helen, 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, Helen Couch Beshens. 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 MILITARY HONORS

THE SPECIAL MUSIC: “Because He Lives”................................. Bill & Gloria Gaither
Judith Speidel, soloist

THE BENEDICTION............................................................. The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE.........................................................Jason Evans

Helen will be buried in a graveside service at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA at a future date.
~ Service Participants ~

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore  
Pastor

Jason K. Evans  
Music Director/Organist

Judith Speidel  
Soloist

~ Obituary ~

Helen Couch Beshens, 89, of Kitty Hawk, NC died Monday, December 7, 2020, at Peak Resources – Outer Banks.

Born in Hyden, KY on November 22, 1931, she was the daughter of the late Mattie Sizemore Couch and Bige Couch.

Helen served her country honorably with the United States Army. She continued to serve her community retiring as a secretary with the civil service. She was a member of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church.

In addition to her parents, Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald J. Beshens; daughter, Leslie Jean Beshens; and siblings, Nannie B. Begley, Pauline C. Hooks, Charlie Couch, Anthony Couch, and Neil Couch.

She is survived by a daughter, Paige A. Beshens of Kill Devil Hills, NC; and a son, Stephen M. Beshens of Tarpon Springs, FL.

A funeral will be held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church with The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore officiating. A graveside committal will be held at Arlington National Cemetery.

Twiford Funeral Homes, Outer Banks is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.TwifordFH.com.
During the fall of 2016, the Congregational Care Committee spearheaded a project in which members and friends of Outer Banks Presbyterian Church were urged to share their military stories. The following is Helen's contribution to the book, “Outer Banks Presbyterian Church: We Salute our Veterans.” The book was presented during the morning worship service on Veterans Day Weekend, November 13, 2016.

Helen Couch Beshens

US Army

1951 – 1953

Army Intelligence - Corporal

Helen Couch graduated from Junior College; after graduation, she and a friend decided to join the Army. They both enlisted and were sent to Ft. Lee, Virginia for basic training. There Helen learned the hardest thing about the Army was having someone tell you what to do. While at Ft. Lee, she did maneuvers in the field wearing fatigues, and she never wore them again. She also had to learn to fire a rifle while lying on the ground. Although she grew up in Kentucky, she had never shot a gun until then, and hasn’t since.

After Ft. Lee, she was assigned to Ft. Gordon, Georgia, where she attended school for Army Intelligence, and lived in an all-female barracks. After completing the school, she was given orders to Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia.

She worked there until she met her husband, then Lt. Gerald J. Beshens. He was also stationed at Arlington Hall, but was in the National Security System, which is now the National Security Agency, right across the hall from Helen. They met and dated briefly; then were married at the Chapel at Walter Reed in Bethesda, Maryland. Officers were not allowed to marry enlisted, so Helen had to resign from the Army to become an Army wife.

It was very unusual for women to join the military at that time, but she has no regrets. After her Army career she took on an even harder job of being an Army wife.
Helen at her wedding to Gerald J. Beshens.

Helen serving as a flag bearer in one of our many “Let Freedom Ring” concerts!
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