

A Celebration in Thanksgiving for Life
Sheila Francine Stanton
and
An Order for Interment of Her Ashes



Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Saint John's Episcopal Church

127 State Street, Kirkland, WA 98033

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The Rev. Michael J. Ryan, Rector

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Sheila Francine Stanton

March 24, 1963 - August 31, 2025

Sheila Francine Stanton, age 62, a beloved figure of Kirkland, Washington, sadly left our world on August 31, 2025, after a life richly lived in service and kindness. Known for selfless service to the community, Sheila was a beacon of light and hope in many communities, touching lives through many avenues.

Preceded in death by her natural parents, Katherine Flake and Melvin King; adoptive parents, Alred and Annie Laura Sims Stanton; niece, Katherine E. Prince, and leaving a legacy through son, Patrick Allen Bell; granddaughter, Ava E. Bell; sister, Havely Denise Stanton Prince - Birmingham, AL; uncle, Samuel (C.J.) Flake - Everett, WA; aunts, Elzada Lofton - Seattle, WA; C. Tasmiya King-Miller – San Francisco, CA, Edna Monifa Willekes – Decatur, GA and Dr. E. Dashanaba King a/k/a Queen Mother Dunenyo 1st Republic of Ghana; niece, Avis L. Prince – Birmingham, AL; nephew, Joshua C. Prince – Birmingham, AL; and a host of beloved family members and a vast community of friends.

Sheila confessed Christ at an early age and baptized into the body of Christ at First Metropolitan Baptist Church – Birmingham, AL, the late Reverend Henry Hicks, pastor, and later became a member of St. John's Episcopal Church – Kirkland, Washington.

She attended Riley Elementary School and was a class of 1981 graduate of Wenonah High School – Birmingham, Alabama; matriculated at Washington State University.

Sheila was employed as a Bailiff at the Washington State Court of Appeals for 24 years; was appointed to the African American Commission by Governor Bob Ferguson and was currently serving her second term. She organized the inaugural Kirkland Juneteenth celebration; and has provided leadership for the Community Dinner Program, a partnership between St. John's and the IMAN Center; and she also was a member of the Emerald Gardens Restaurant Family, and Fraternal Order of Eagles – Kirkland Aerie #2681.

Sheila's memory will be a guiding star for all who knew her.

Altar Guild	Jan Spangenberg	2nd Reader	Pastor Calvin May Beacon Hill First Baptist Church
Flowers	Dana Pitts		
Ushers	Joe Kattenhorn Bruce Pitts	Intercessor	Dana Pitts
Sound	Rick Long	Altar Server	Paula Copley
1st Reader	Valerie Villacin	Music Minister	Michael Monnikendam
		Presider	Fr. Michael Ryan

The Prelude

Michael Monnikendam

Opening Anthem

The Burial Liturgy begins with a procession from the Altar of Repose in the chapel where Sheila's ashes have been placed earlier in the week. The Pascal Candle, the symbol of Sheila's Baptism, is brought in to lead the procession, followed by members of her family and the priest, who carries the urn to the foot of the Altar.

Presider says

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.

Opening Hymn

Amazing Grace

Hymnal 1982 #671

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister, Sheila. We thank you for giving her to us, her family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *People:* **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Lector: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Presider: Let us recite Psalm 23 in unison.

The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those

who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the

days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Revelation.

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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, '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 centre 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.'

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

John 13:1-2, 12-16, 34-35

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Remembrances

Elton Mason
Rick Long
Jawad Khaki

Homily

The Rev. Michael Ryan

Musical Interlude

Michael Monnikendam

The Apostles Creed

Presider: In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, 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.**

Prayers of the People

Intercessor: For our sister, Sheila, 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 Sheila, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

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

Hear us, Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

The Presider: Father of all, we pray to you for Sheila and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *People:* **Amen.**

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

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 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 Commendation

The Priest and other ministers take their places at the urn.

Presider: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

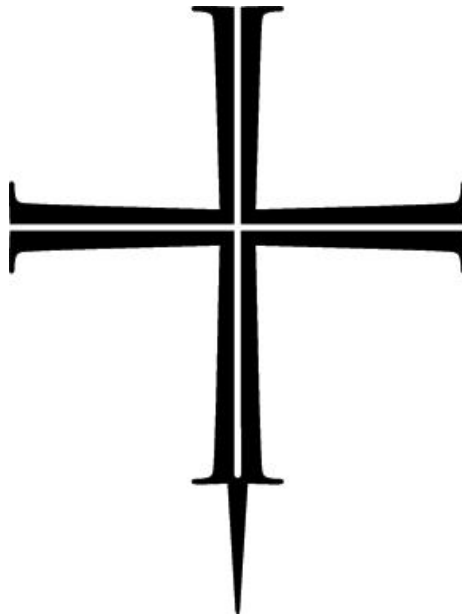
People: **Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Presider: 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 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.

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

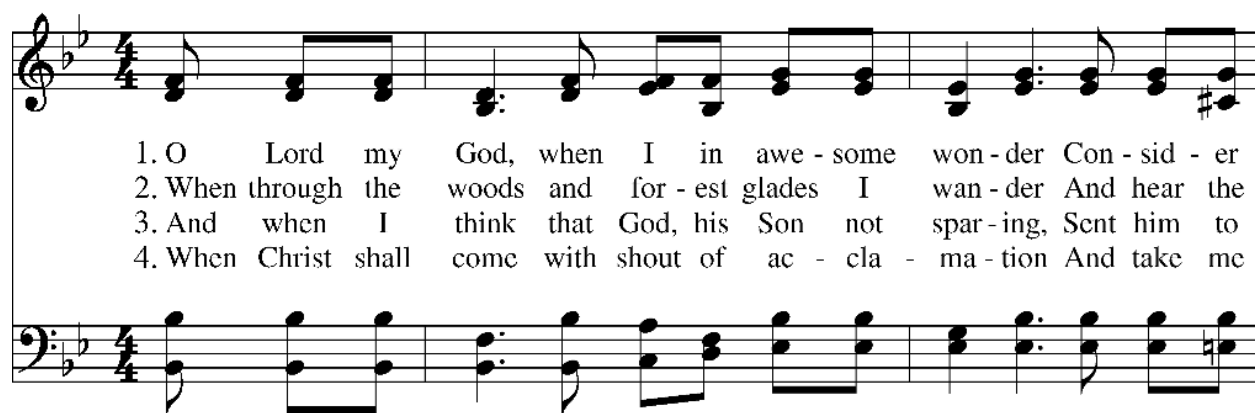
Presider: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Sheila. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

People: **Amen.**

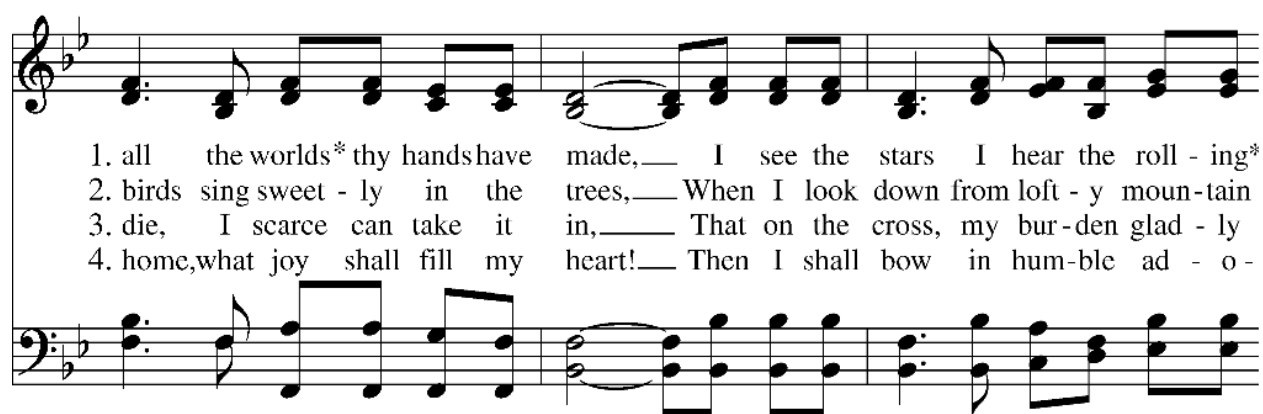


How Great Thou Art

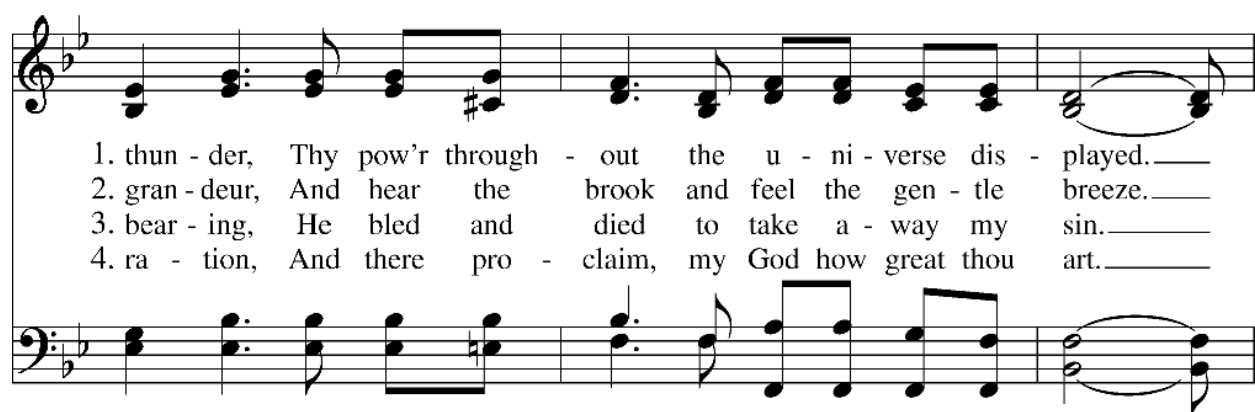
LEVAS II #60



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er
 2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Scent him to
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



1. all the worlds* thy hand have made, — I see the stars I hear the roll - ing*
 2. birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, — When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 3. die, I scarce can take it in, — That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
 4. home, what joy shall fill my heart! — Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



1. thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played. —
 2. gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. —
 3. bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin. —
 4. ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God how great thou art. —



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to Thee: — How great Thou

* The translator's original words are "works" and "mighty."

art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to

Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

The Committal

The priest conveys the urn to the columbarium and, at the niche says:

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Sheila and commit her ashes to the elements, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless Sheila and keep her, the Lord make her face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up her countenance upon her and give her peace.

People: **Amen.**

Presider: Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord;

People: **And let light perpetual shine upon her.**

Presider: May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People: **Amen.**

Benediction

Presider:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; a
nd the blessing of Almighty God, Father Son, and Holy Spirit
be upon you now and forever more.

People: **Amen**

The Postlude

Michael Monnikendam

**Please join Sheila's family in Marsh Hall for
refreshments immediately following today's service.**