a house of prayer for all people since 1858

A Requiem Eucharist celebrating the life of
Iolis Robbins Carruthers
October 2, 1930 – February 24, 2021

Saturday, March 20, 2021
Eleven o’clock in the morning
Iolis Robbins Carruthers, 90, passed away on February 24, 2021. Iolis was born on October 2, 1930 to Charles and Iolis Robbins. She was preceded in death by her son Louis Carruthers II and her husband Wilson Mallory Carruthers, Sr. whom she was married to for 68 years.

She is survived by her sons Wilson Mallory Carruthers Jr and Charles Robbins Carruthers (Laura), daughters Susan Iolis Carruthers and Carol Carruthers Antley (Randy), her grandchildren, Elizabeth Sherrard (Tom), Neil Gay (Pam), Drew Antley, Stephanie Carlson (Todd), Wilson M. (Trip) Carruthers III and four great grandchildren.

Iolis graduated from St, Mary’s Episcopal School for girls, where her senior year, she was chosen to be the May Queen. She attended Vanderbilt University and Southwestern at Memphis before marrying Wilson and raising five children. Later in life, she pursued her dream of returning to college and graduated from the University of Memphis with a degree in Education. She taught in the Memphis City School System for 13 years.

Iolis was a lifetime member of St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral where she was head of the Sunday school for over 50 years. She served on the Alter Guild, volunteered at the Episcopal Bookstore, and attended weekly Bible Study. Iolis was also an Associate of the St. Mary’s Community and participated in the annual "Martyrs of Memphis" celebration.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any donations be made to St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Trezevant Foundation, Sisterhood of St. Mary’s Convent at Sewanee or a charity of your choice.
We are an Easter people. As Christians our liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. Because God raised Jesus from the dead, we too shall be raised. The Christian faith calls us to witness, even in death, the new life that God gives in Christ through his death and resurrection. Therefore, our worship today is characterized by joy. 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 one has entered into the nearer presence of God, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

Voluntary

He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd

G.F. Handel

The Welcome from the Interim Dean

The Very Reverend Jean Vargo

Anthem in Procession

The Book of Common Prayer, page 491

Sung by cantor.

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though she die. And everyone who has life, and has committed herself 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. For none of us has life in herself, and none becomes her own master when she dies.

For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord! So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Iolis Robbins Carruthers. 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. Amen.
**THE WORD OF GOD**

**A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH, THE 25TH CHAPTER, BEGINNING AT VERSE 6**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged 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 forever. 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. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 25:6-9

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 23**

1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
   I shall not be in want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures  
   and leads me beside still waters.
3 He revives my soul  
   and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
4 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.
5 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.
6 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.

**A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN, THE 21ST CHAPTER, BEGINNING AT VERSE 2**

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 as their God; 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." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are
trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Revelation 21:2-7

Lector  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

Hymn at the Sequence 494 vs. 1,3, 5  Crown him with many crowns

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed over the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of heaven,
enthroned in worlds above;
crown him the King, to whom is given,
the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns,
as thrones before him fall,
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns,
for he is King of all.

The Gospel

Deacon  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
People  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:1-6

Deacon  The Gospel of the Lord.
People  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily  The Reverend Bindy Snyder
Celebrant
For our sister Iolis, 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 Iolis, and dry the tears of those who weep.
**Hear us, Lord.**
You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.
**Hear us, Lord.**
You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.
**Hear us, Lord.**
You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.
**Hear us, Lord.**
Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.
**Hear us, Lord.**
She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.
**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.
*The Prayers conclude with*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Iolis, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father’s love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

*Celebrant*  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*  
And also with you.
THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from error, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Constance and Her Companions, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant     Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People       Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All are invited to receive the body of Christ. We ask that you remain in your seat and masked. When the communion is brought to you, please kneel or stand to receive the wafer in your hand. After the communion server leaves your Covid unit, you may momentarily remove your mask to consume the body of Christ, then replace your mask. If you would like a blessing please cross your arms to indicate your desire.

COMMUNION SOLO HYMN 654 Day by day Sumner
Sung by cantor

All who are able please stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER    The Book of Common Prayer, page 498

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.
A Litany of Remembrance

Celebrant  At the rising of the sun and at its going down
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  At the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  At the beginning of the year and when it ends
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  As long as we live, she too will live; for she is now a part of us,
People    As we remember her.
Celebrant  When we are weary and in need of strength
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  When we are lost and sick at heart
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  When we have joy we crave to share
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  When we have decisions that are difficult to make
People    We remember her.
Celebrant  When we have achievements that are based on hers
People    We remember her.
Celebrant and People

As long as we live, she too will live; for she is now a part of us, as we remember her.

CHANT

Intoned by cantor

Into paradise may the angels lead you

In paradisum

Into paradise may the angels lead you.
At your coming may the martyrs receive you, and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.
May the choirs of angels welcome you, and with Lazarus who once was poor may you have peace everlasting.
Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

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. Give rest, O Christ, to your servant 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, Iolis. 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.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 405

All things bright and beautiful

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, he made their glowing colors, he made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, he made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary Improvisation on “All things bright and beautiful” Dennis Janzer
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any donations be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, The Trezevant Foundation, The Sisterhood of St. Mary's Convent at Sewanee, or a charity of your choice.

Requiescat in pace

Clergy & Participants

The Very Rev. Jean Vargo
Celebrant

The Rev. Drew Woodruff
Deacon

Larry Gossett
Crucifer

Stephanie Carlson
Trip Carruthers
Marilyn Dunavant
Lectors

Dennis Janzer
Organist

Drew Massengale
Soloist
CLERGY AND STAFF

The Right Reverend Phoebe A. Roaf
Bishop of West Tennessee

The Very Reverend Jean Vargo
Interim Dean

Kenyetta Thompson Powell
Associate for Youth and Family Formation

Jasper Delaney
Sexton

Dr. Dennis Janzer
Director of Music

Paul Murray
Choirmaster
Associate for Liturgy

The Rev. Drew Woodruff
Deacon

Allison Musick
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Cathedral Vestry

2021 – Posey Hedges, Sybil Onwuka, Rosie Townley Bakewell, Steve Kite-Powell
2022 – Drew Smith, Michael Synk, Billy Pullen, Margery Wolcott
2023 – Julie Byrd Ashworth, Tim Baker, Justin Price

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Julie Byrd Ashworth – Senior Warden
Tim Baker – Treasurer
Matt Morice – Finance Chair

St. Mary’s
Episcopal Cathedral

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