

Celebration of Life

of

Mark Higginbotham

May 25, 1961 – September 24, 2020



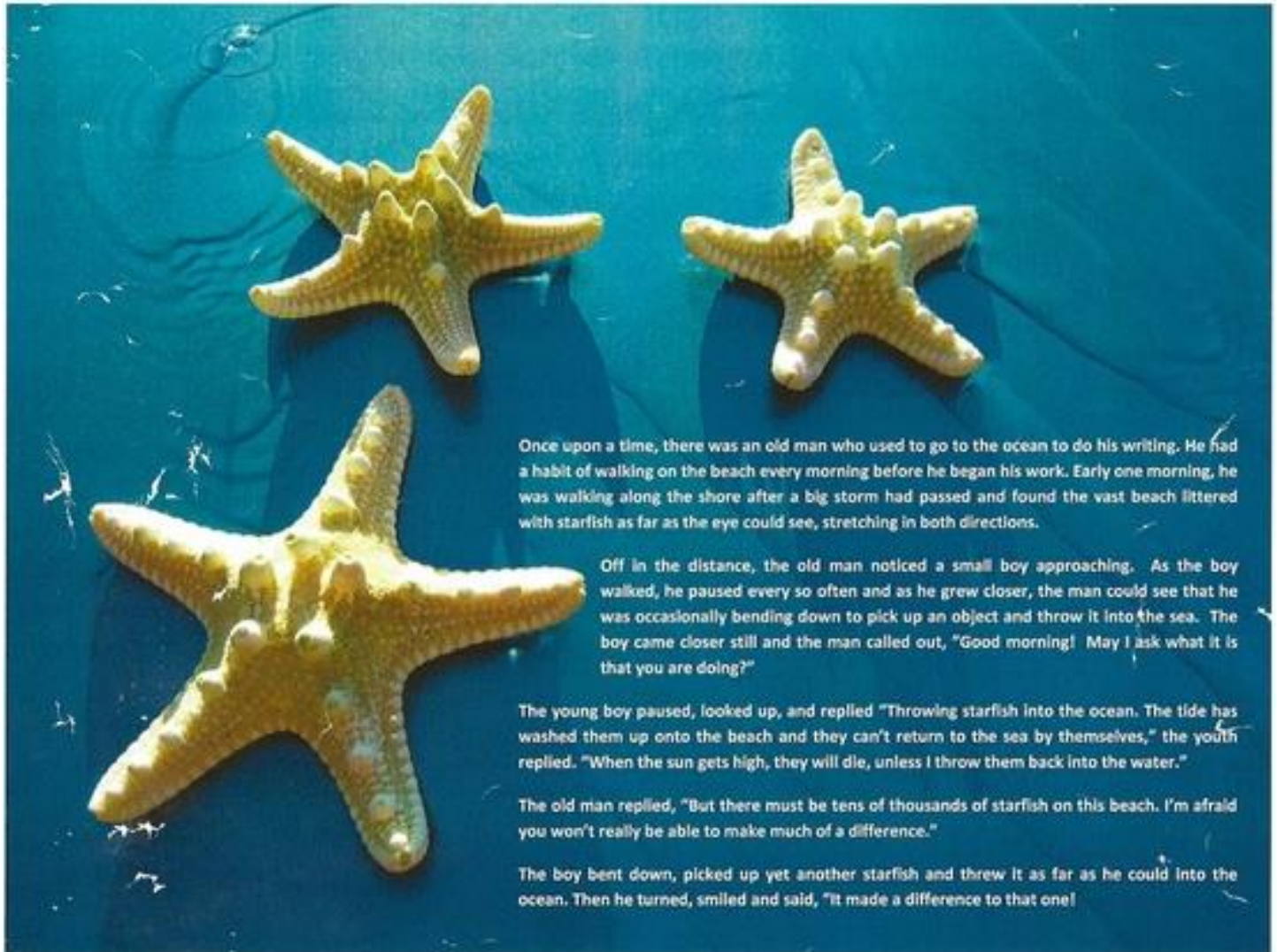
St. John's Episcopal Church

October 24, 2020

11:00 am

In accordance with our current health guidelines, those attending our worship service in-person are asked to keep social distance, perform hand hygiene, regretfully, no physical touch, and to refrain from singing. However, if you are joining our service virtually, the music is printed in the worship bulletin for you to sing along.

You made a difference!



Once upon a time, there was an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions.

Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused every so often and as he grew closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and throw it into the sea. The boy came closer still and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the youth replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die, unless I throw them back into the water."

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference."

The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

On one occasion, Mark gave Tom a Tiffany silver starfish. The starfish has become a symbol of the things that we can do to make a difference in the life of another.

Mark has touched many of our lives – especially in the small, simple ways. Because he made a difference in our life, his life and love will continue to be made known in our words and action. As Mark has touched and impacted our lives, so to shall we make a difference in the lives of others.

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

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 brother, Mark. We thank you for giving him to us, his 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 have gone before us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with all those who mourn in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*Isaiah 25:6-9*

Karen Duignan

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: ***Thanks be to God***

Psalm 139:1-6 *(please respond where bold)*

Cole Brzeczek

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?

A Reading from the Book of Revelation*Revelation 7:9-17*

Lilly Higginbotham

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 worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever 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 center 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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: ***Thanks be to God***

Gradual

The Gospel *(Please stand as you are able)*

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *John 14:1-6*

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."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Allisyn Thomas

Remembrance

David Dennehy

The Apostles Creed *(Please stand as you are able)*

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.

The Prayers of the People

Mark Jordon

For our brother, Mark, 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 Mark, 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 brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Silence may be kept.

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

People: ***Amen.***

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Greet one another in the Name of Christ, maintaining social distance and regretfully, no physical touch.

Remembrance

Ed Kutch

Preparation of the Altar and Gift

Greensleeves

Instrumental: Maria Love

The Great Thanksgiving

(Please stand as you are able)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People : ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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.

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 evil, 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,

***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 St. John 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 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 has been sacrificed for us.

People: ***Therefore let us keep the peace. Alleluia!***

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion

If you wish to receive Communion, please remain standing at your chair and Holy Communion will be brought to you. To receive, extend your arms as far as you are able and a priest will place Communion on your palm. You may then lower your mask and receive Communion.

Post Communion Prayer (Please stand as you are able)

Celebrant: Let us pray

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.

Remembrance

Chris Brzeczek

The Commendation (Please stand as you are able)

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 mankind;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto 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 Mark
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.
Receive him 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.***

Closing Hymn

Sing with All the Saints in Glory



1. Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -
 2. O what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has
 3. Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who
 4. Life e - ter - nal! O what won - ders Crowd on faith; what



rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
 yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing,
 once was dead; Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!
 joy un - known, When, a - midst earth's clos - ing thun - ders,



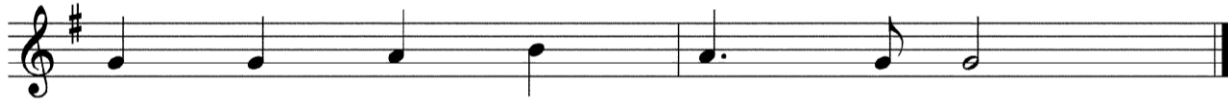
To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the
 Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,
 Child of God, lift up your head! Pa - tri - archs from
 Saints shall stand be - fore the throne! O to en - ter



clouds are break - ing, Soon the storms of time shall cease;
 Christ pre - pares it, There on high our wel - come waits;
 dis - tant a - ges, Saints all long - ing for their heav'n,
 that bright por - tal, See that glow - ing fir - ma - ment,



In God's like - ness, we a - wak - en,
 Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it,
 Proph - ets, psalm - ists, seers, and sag - es,
 Know, with you, O God im - mor - tal,



Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
 Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
 All a - wait the glo - ry giv'n.
 Je - sus Christ whom you have sent!

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20; William J. Irons, 1812-1883, alt.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY, 8 7 8 7 D; arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867

The Committal

(Please turn toward the columbarium)

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.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The ashes are placed in the Columbarium

Presider: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother, Mark, and we commit his body to its resting place, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace.

People: **Amen.**

Presider: Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:

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

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

People: **Amen.**

Presider: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Obituary for Mark Higginbotham

Richard Mark Higginbotham, 59 of Chula Vista, CA, passed away on September 24, 2020.

Mark was born in El Paso Texas to Richard and Betty Higginbotham on May 25, 1961. After Graduating from Ernest W. Seaholm High School in Birmingham, MI, Mark attended and graduated from the Ft. Lauderdale School of Art and Design with a degree in modern art and design. After many years in Florida, Mark brought his talents west to San Diego furthering his career in Hotel and Restaurant Management bringing his colorful and ever-positive personality to so many along the way. Beginning as Director of Group Sales at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, Mark rose to Director of Sales, Marketing, Events and Catering at the historic U.S. Grant. He also took a turn as the Director of Sales, Marketing, Events and Catering on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA.

In 2013 Mark met Tom Brzeczek and they later married on July 25, 2015. They spent their time traveling and experiencing life to its fullest, from cruising around the world to cheering on their granddaughters at their softball games. Mark returned to the St. John's family in 2018 and was honored to serve as an acolyte and ultimately as Junior Warden for the church. He also volunteered with Episcopal Community Services, expanding his service to God and our community.

Mark is preceded in death by Richard Higginbotham (father).

Mark Higginbotham is survived by Betty Higginbotham (mother), Scott and Frankie Lynn Higginbotham (brother and sister-in-law) and Lilly and Caleb Higginbotham (niece and nephew). He is also survived by Tom Brzeczek (husband), Julie, Christopher and Cole Brzeczek (step-children) and Chloe and Lilyana Brzeczek (granddaughters).

Liturgical Leaders

Presider	The Rev. Roger Haenke
Gospeller	The Rev. Cathey Dowdle
Preacher	The Rev. Allisyn Thomas
Readers	Karen Duignan, Cole Brzeczek, Lilly Higginbotham
Remembrances	Scott Higginbotham, David Dennehy, Ed Kutch, Chris Brzeczek
Prayers of the People	Mark Jordan
Vocalists	Jeff Bates, Pamela Brittain, Jane Ferguson
Flutist	Maria Love
Organist	Cheryl Seppala
Video and Sound	Cliff Berkowitz and Jeff Bates

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