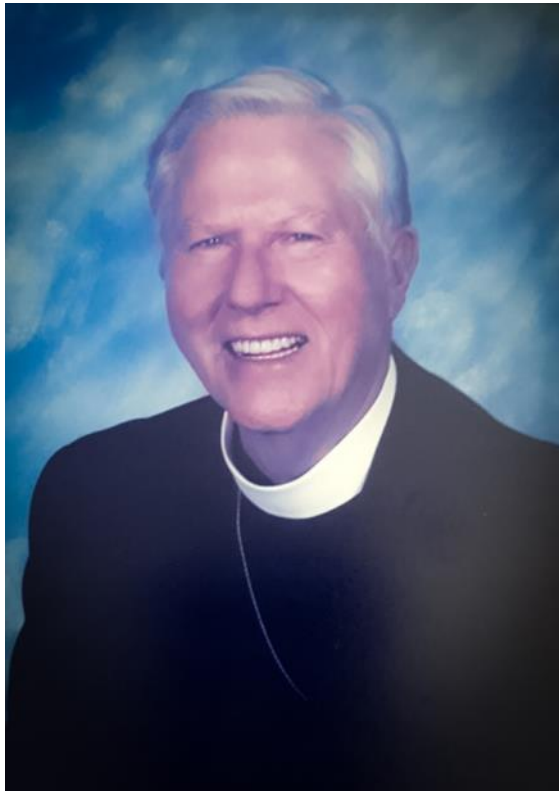


# *Celebration of Life*

of

**The Rev. John C. “Jack” Tolley  
May 20, 1935 - August 16, 2020**



**St. John's Episcopal Church  
August 29, 2020  
11:00 am**

Fr. John (Jack) Tolley passed away peacefully August 16th with his family by his side. Jack was born on May 20, 1935 in Cleveland, Ohio. He love to talk about his childhood in Cleveland. In 1959, he earned a bachelor's degree in safety management at Baldwin Wallace Methodist College in Berea, Ohio. There, he met his wife, Sarah. He served two years in the U.S. Army. Then over the years worked for Republic Steel, Dow Chemical and Laurence Livermore Laboratories.

His true passion was the Episcopal Church. In 1982, he earned his degree in Theology at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific Episcopal seminary. He worked as a fill-in pastor at various Episcopal Churches in the Bay area while still working his regular job.

In 2001, he retired and moved to Chula Vista, California with his wife. He then became an assistant pastor at St. John's Episcopal Church in Chula Vista. He loved doing Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, counseling and attending St. John's Men's Club meetings.

He will be missed by all at St. John's.

But most of all, Jack will be missed by his family. He is survived by his loving wife Sarah and sons Craig and John.



***Sarah and the family have requested that memorials be made to St. John's Episcopal Church in honor of Fr. Jack.***

## Prelude

### Processional Anthem

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.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he 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.

### Opening Hymn

*We Gather Together*

Hymnal 433

*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, Jack. 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.***

*Please be seated*

## **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

*Isaiah 61: 1-3*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion--  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord*

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

## **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

*2Corinthians 4:16-5:9*

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; for 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. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling-- if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

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

## **Gradual**

*The Church's one foundation*

Hymnal 525 v. 1&2

## **The Gospel**

*Please stand as you are able*

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

*John 6:37-40*

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

Jesus said to the people, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

*Presider:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

## **Homily**

# Memorial

## 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

For our brother, Jack, 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 Jack, 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 Jack, 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.**

## **The Offertory Anthem**

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

Hymnal 657 v. 1-3

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*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

*In the garden*

## 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.***

## The Commendation

*(Please remain standing as you are able)*

*Bishop* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

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

*Bishop* 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.***

*Bishop* Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Jack. 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

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee*

Hymnal 376

## 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*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we commend to Almighty God our brother, Jack,  
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.***

*Bishop: 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.***

## Taps and the Presentation of the American Flag

### Liturgical Leaders

**Celebrant**

The Rt. Rev. Susan Brown Snook

**Presider and Preacher**

The Rev. Roger Haenke

**Acolytes**

Jeremy Tolley and Denise Eddleman

**Readers**

John Tolley and Craig Tolley,

**Gospel**

The Rev. Cathey Dowdle

**Memorial**

Mark Jordan

**Prayers of the People**

Mike Golihur

**Psalmist/Vocalist**

The Rev. Michael Kaehr

**Organist**

Cheryl Seppala

**Video and Sound**

Cliff Berkowitz and Jeff Bates

## So much to say...hard to find the words!

I sit here, staring at a blank page...I'm at a loss for words  
...and yet, there's so very much to say about Fr. Jack...about the man, his life, and his ministry!

I met Jack when he first came to St. John's, about 20 years ago now. From the start, he fit seamlessly into the generous, loving culture of the parish. He voluntarily took on a large portion of the pastoral support for our parish household and took true delight in assisting with the chapel portions of St. John's School...he loved each and every one of those kids!

As my vocational call clarified and I began the path to ordination, I found Jack to be the staunchest supporter, most helpful mentor, and always loving cheerleader any student could ever hope to have! He was always willing to engage in theological discussions, eager to read and offer opinions on papers...and just to be an ear or shoulder when the need arose.

It was at being that ear, that shoulder, that calm presence that Jack excelled. He is my model for pastoral care and ministry. He could certainly tell a good story, but it was always you in whom he was most interested. "How are you?" "What's new with you?" "Are you alright?" We have all experienced his concerned care for us...and about us.

When I returned to St. John's in 2017, it was such a joy to join him as a colleague on the ministry team! And, no surprise, he continued being the generous cheerleader he has always been for me. As I returned to the parish with new eyes and more experience, I have been continuously struck by the kind, humble, generous, and loving nature of Jack's ministry to us all.

Many of you have heard me preach on saints with a small "s" and Saints with a capital "S"...Jack will always be a Saint with a capital "S" for me. He exemplified the "disciple's life" all Christians are called to by Jesus, as he cared for and ministered to all, especially to the most vulnerable in our midst.

Again...so much each of us could say...so much written in each of our hearts and spirits. In the spirit of his ministry, I ask us all to honor him by emulating the example of his ministry to others and by following the advice he so often gave, "be kind, especially to yourself."

Rev. Cathey Dowdle

## St. John's Mission Statement

St. John's is a Christian community that intentionally gathers to experience God's love through Episcopal worship, education, fellowship, and ministry to the wider community.

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