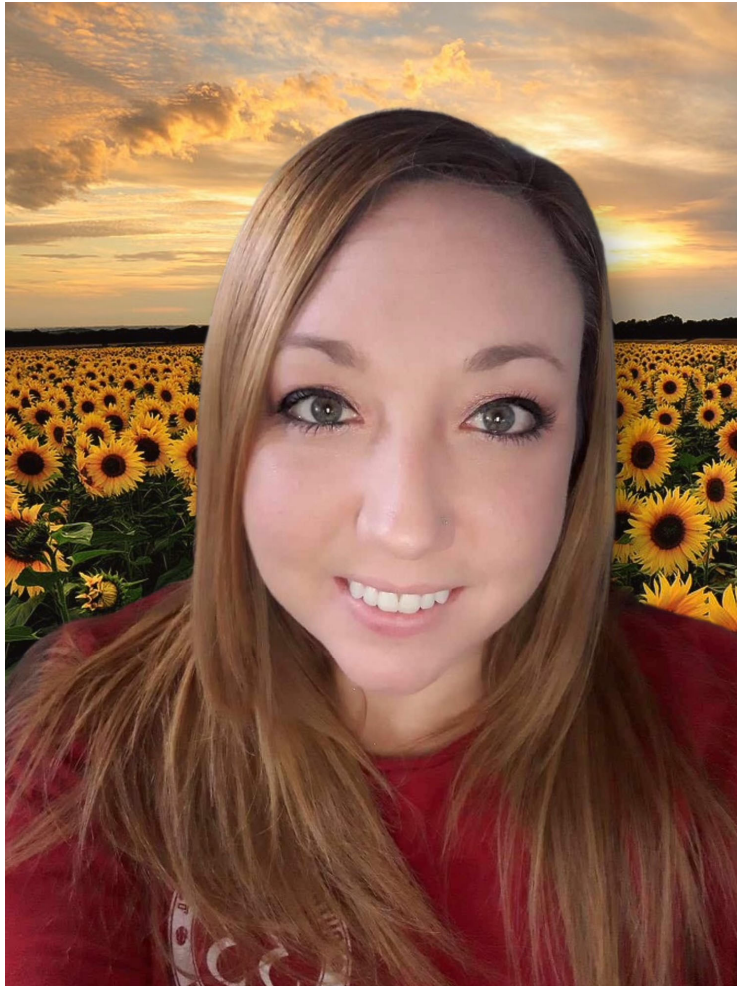


Celebration of the Life of
Sara Kristen Gracier Buchmiller

July 8, 1987 ~ February 22, 2024



March 16, 2024 at 11am
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
2140 Mission Avenue
Carmichael, California 95608

www.stmichaelscarmichael.org

PRELUDE Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.


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.

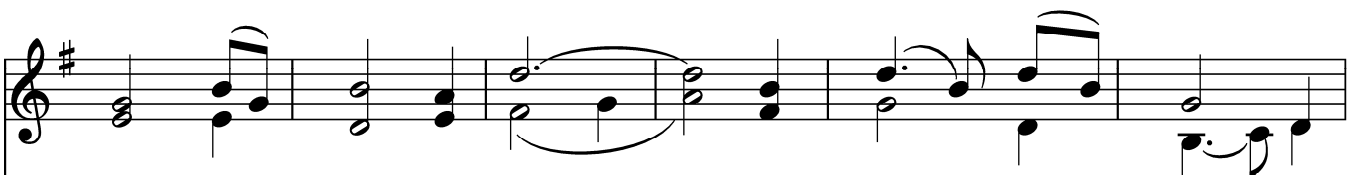
For none of us has life in herself,
and none becomes her own master when she dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

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

OPENING HYMN LEVAS—#181 Amazing Grace



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 - read - y 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. _____

Words: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton (1725-1807; Stanza 5, Ascr. John Rees, c. 1859. Music: *New Britain*, CM, *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. John Barnard (b. 1948). Harm. Copyright © 1982 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved.

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, Sara. 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD *Please be seated.*

A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:22-26, 31-33)

Pat Cole

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please pray Psalm 23 responsively by half verse.

Bree Savage

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
- 3 He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 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.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:16, 5-9)

Ashley Nunnely

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; 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE GOSPEL John 14:1-6

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

'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.

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

REMEMBERANCES

Mary Leyva
Rachel Benjamin

HOMILY

The Rev. Mary Claugus

APOSTLES' CREED *Please stand as you are able*

Deacon 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 DEPARTED

Deacon For our sister Sara, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Leader Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Sara 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 Sara; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Sara, 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 AND OFFERTORY

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant Let us with gladness present the offerings and gifts of our lives and labor to God.

OFFERTORY SOLO Largo from Cello Sonata in g minor, Op 19 by Chopin

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

We believe that the real presence of Jesus is in the bread and wine. Everyone is invited to receive. The host is given to hands that are opened for this receiving. Fold your hands across your chest if you prefer to receive a blessing. Gluten free hosts are available.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharist Prayer A, BCP*

Please stand as you are able

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 Living God.

People **It is right to give God 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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel or stand as you are able

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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,

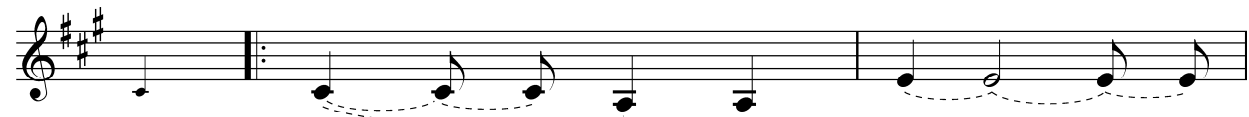
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND INVITATION

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

Celebrant This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who want to know and love Christ, all are invited to come and meet Jesus here. The Gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION HYMN The Hymnal 1982—#335 I am the Bread of Life



1	I	am	the	bread	of	life;—	they	who
2 (The)	Bread	that—	I	will	give—	is	my	
3 (Un-)	less—		you	eat—	of	the		
4	I	am	the	re -	sur -	rec -	tion,	
5 (Yes,)	Lord,		we	be -	lieve—	that—		



1	come	to	me	shall	not—	hun -	ger;	they	who	be -
2	Flesh	for	the	life	of	the	world,—	and	they	who
3	Flesh	of	the	Son	of—	Man—		and—		
4	I—		am	the—	life.—		They	who	be -	
5	you—		are	the—	Christ,			the—		



1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 2 eat _____ of this bread, they shall live for
 3 drink _____ of his Blood, you shall not have life with -
 4 lieve _____ in me, e - ven _____ if they
 5 Son _____ of God who _____ has



1 me _____ un - less the _____ Fa - ther draw them.
 2 ev - er. _____ they shall live for ev - er.
 3 in you. you shall not have life with - in you.
 4 die, _____ they shall live for ev - er.
 5 come _____ in - to _____ the _____ world. _____

Refrain

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

up, and I will raise them up on the

last day. _____

2 The
 3 Un- day.
 4 —
 5 Yes,
 (♩)

The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.
 Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), adapt. of John 6. Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*,
 Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928). Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please kneel or stand as you are able

Celebrant Together, 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 kneel or stand as you are able

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

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; 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: **Praise God and Christ our Savior.**

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 Sara. 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 AND DISMISSAL

Life is short and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind; and may The Divine Mystery, Who is beyond our ability to know, but Who made us, Who loves us and Who travels the way with us, Bless you and Keep you in Peace. **Amen.**

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN The Hymnal 1982—#662 Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Words: Henry Frances Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

POSTLUDE Going Home by Dvorak

In one of the stars I shall be living.
In one of them I shall be laughing
when you look up at the sky at night.
And when your sorrow is comforted
for time, soothes all sorrows,
you'll be content that you have known me.
You will always be my friend.
You will want to laugh with me
and you will sometimes open the window,
just for that pleasure.

The Little Prince

Sara Kristen Gracier Buchmiller

July 8, 1987 ~ February 22, 2024

Sara Kristen - Gracier Buchmiller, beloved daughter, sister, auntie, and friend, passed away the evening of February 22, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. Born in Placerville, California on July 7th, 1987, to Judith Gracier, Sara's early years were spent living in Pollock Pines with her mother, big brother Daniel and her baby sister Mary. Following their mother's terminal diagnosis, Sara and her siblings entered foster care and ultimately, she and Mary were placed with Bradley and Rebecca Buchmiller and were officially and joyfully adopted on September 5, 1997. Tall, and with a smile brighter than the sun, Sara quickly earned the family nickname "sunflower" and was always the first to greet family and friends with cheer and a tight hug. Sara loved her family and friends fiercely, especially her nieces, nephew, and her beloved terrier Penny who was her constant companion for the last 10 years. Sara remained close to her birth family and over the years the two families often shared holidays and other life events together.

As we remember Sara, we seek not to define who she was by the many traumatic life events and challenges she experienced, nor the resulting impact they left on her and those who mourn her, but to seek understanding, love, and compassion for the sunflower who always lit up the room with her smile, boisterous laugh, and big hugs for all.

Sara is preceded in death by her birth mother Judith, her beloved big brother Daniel Osterhoff, and several other extended family members who were dear to her. She is survived by her parents Brad and Rebecca, siblings Mary, Elizabeth, and Bradley, and a long list of people who loved her. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donation consideration be made towards a memorial picnic table for loved ones to gather in one of her favorite places along the American River.

Contributions can be made via the [American River Parkway Foundation](#) webpage (please mention Sara specifically in the tribute) and are greatly appreciated. The family also welcomes donations to St. Michaels Episcopal Church in memory of Sara and in recognition of where she attended Sunday School, participated in Youth Group, and gathered many happy memories and lifelong friendships.

About this Service

In The Episcopal Church the liturgy for the dead 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 heights, 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 eliminate human grief. The very love we have for each other brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.



The Paschal Candle

The paschal candle is decorated with the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, a cross, and sometimes other symbols of the Resurrection. The candle is lit from new fire and carried into the darkened church during the Great Vigil of Easter. It is lit throughout the Easter season, and at Baptisms and Burials to remind us of 'The light of Christ' and His words, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."



Memorial Gifts

In thanksgiving for Sara's life, donations can be made to St. Michael's Episcopal Church and American River Parkway Foundation.



Flowers

The flowers for this service are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for Sara's life by her family.



Please join the family for a reception immediately following the service in the Parish Hall.



Ministers of the Service

The Rev. Mary Claugus, The Rev. Rodney Davis
Sue Corbin Altar Guild
Lisa Hayes & Jackie Coe Flowers
Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot Acolyte
Pat Cole, Bree Savage & Ashley Nunnely Readers
Renée Pierce & Mary Ellen Ferguson Eucharistic Ministers
John Cozza Music
Terry Bridges Usher
John Quené Videographer
Emily Cole Brown Reception Coordinator