

A Celebration of the Life of
Kathryn Lee Gladney Ellis

July 9, 1925 – February 12, 2022



May 14, 2022

1:00 p.m.

Obituary

Kathryn Lee Gladney Ellis

July 9, 1925 – February 12, 2022

Kathryn Lee Gladney Ellis was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her formative years were spent in parochial and public schools. After graduating with honors from Dunbar High School, she went to Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, for two years. The senior years were spent at Indiana University from which she received a Bachelor of Science degree. She received the Master Degree in Physical Education with a Dance concentration from Wayne State University. She was married to the late George Franklin Ellis, Jr., for 47 years. To this union was born a daughter, Gina Renee.

Kathy was the youngest of three children. With two older brothers, Augustus and John, it was not unusual to see her climbing trees, “skinning the cat”, shooting marbles—just doing “boy” things. The oldest brother used her as his dancing partner as he learned to ballroom dance. He’d put her on his feet and move through the steps. When she learned the steps, she became Augustus’ partner. The active childhood led to a college major in physical education. The love of dance was nurtured during these years as she was introduced to modern dance. She took as many modern classes as were offered at Indiana University.

Her professional career began in 1950 when she became a substitute teacher in the Detroit Public Schools system. In 1951 she was placed as a Probationary 1 teacher at Norvell Elementary School with a principal who provided latitude for growth and development. The staff was allowed to design any program that would benefit the students. As Ellis enjoyed modern dance, she started an after-school dance club. Soon thereafter, as a graduate student at Wayne State, she was encouraged by her supervisor, Dr. Delia P. Hussey, to audition for Dance Workshop which she did and was successful. Her tenure in WSU’s Workshop lasted several years.

For the next thirty-plus years, Kathy was a teacher of dance in the Physical Education Department in four high schools: Northern, Eastern, Finney, and Redford. Her students were often asked to be part of the annual city-wide dance programs. They danced with the regional opera company, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, participated in demonstrations for local, regional, and national organizations, and gave an annual high school concert wherever she taught. Some of her students became professional dancers; others became dance teachers.

Her career was enhanced by her participation on the local, state, regional, and national levels in diverse organizations. She was Vice President of the Dance Division of the MI Health, Physical Education and Recreational Association, having received an Honor Award from them; President of the Michigan Dance Association; twice the President of the National Dance Association (NDA); and of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, and Dance (AAHPERD), the first African American so honored and from whom she received an Honor Award; and was an NDA Heritage Honoree. Her involvement included work with the MI State Department of Education in the development of generic competencies and minimal performance objectives and various committees at state and national levels; planner and presenter at state, regional, and national level conventions.

Kathy has received the WSU Copper Foot Award for Choreography, WSU Arts Achievement Award in Dance, the Spirit of Detroit Award, MI Dance Teacher of the Year in Public Schools, cited by the MI State Senate for artistic contributions in education and the community, an honoree of the Detroit Dance Collective, and in the Fall of 2004 the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts of WSU established the Kathryn Gladney Ellis Scholarship in Dance. She was a member of Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity (education) and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The Ellis family was confirmed Episcopalians. Kathy served in several capacities at the churches the family attended: in the choir, as a member of the Vestry, Secretary to the Vestry, Lay Eucharistic Minister, the Bell Choir, and as an office volunteer. She was devoted to her church.

The pride and joy of Kathy's life were her late husband of 47 years, George; their daughter Gina (now a DPS dance teacher at the high school level); late brother, John H. Gladney, M.D.; her "adopted" daughter, Nancy; and nieces, nephews, grand- and great-nieces and nephews, and former students.

Remembrances may be made to the Kathryn Gladney Ellis Scholarship Fund at the Maggie Allesee Department of Theater & Dance at Wayne State University; the United Negro College Fund; or Christ Church Detroit.

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

from the *Book of Common Prayer (BCP)*



OPENING VOLUNTARY

Aria

Cynthia Dobrinski
The Bell Choir

TRIBUTE

Ivy Beyond the Wall

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

All stand as able, and sing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ is alive

Hymnal 182

WELCOME

OPENING COLLECT

BCP 493

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Kathryn. 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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The People sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-3

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

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.

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

PSALM

Anglican chant sung by the Choir

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.

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

Lector A reading from Revelation.

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 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 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."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTIONS

Nancy Flake-Johnson
Judy Gladney
Wendell Ellis

CHORAL ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

arr. Keith McCutchen

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come.
‘Twas grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.

All stand as able.

GOSPEL

John 6:37-40

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The People sit.

HOMILY

The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey

A period of silence is kept.

At the invitation of the Celebrant, all stand as able.

APOSTLES' CREED

BCP 496

Celebrant In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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

BCP 497, adapted

Leader For Kathryn, 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 us near to those who mourn and dry the tears of those who weep.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader 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.**

Priest Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord:
Receive our sister Kathryn into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place.
Let her heart and soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God,
and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People share Christ's peace, and then are seated.

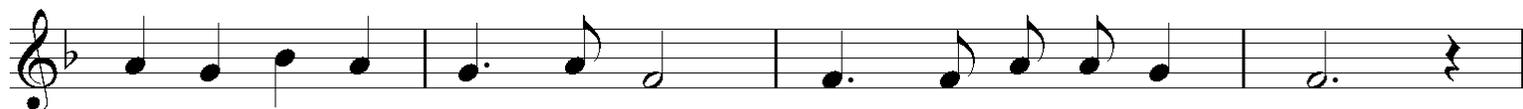
GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Celebrant continues

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:

SANCTUS

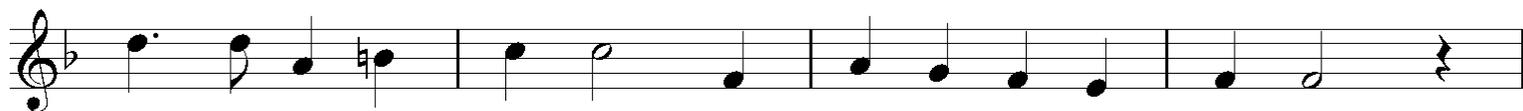
Richard Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

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 to 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

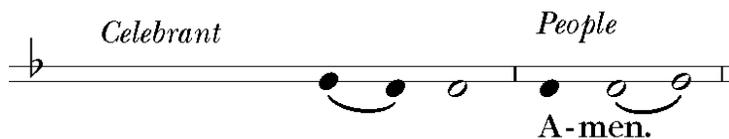
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.



LORD'S PRAYER

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

All

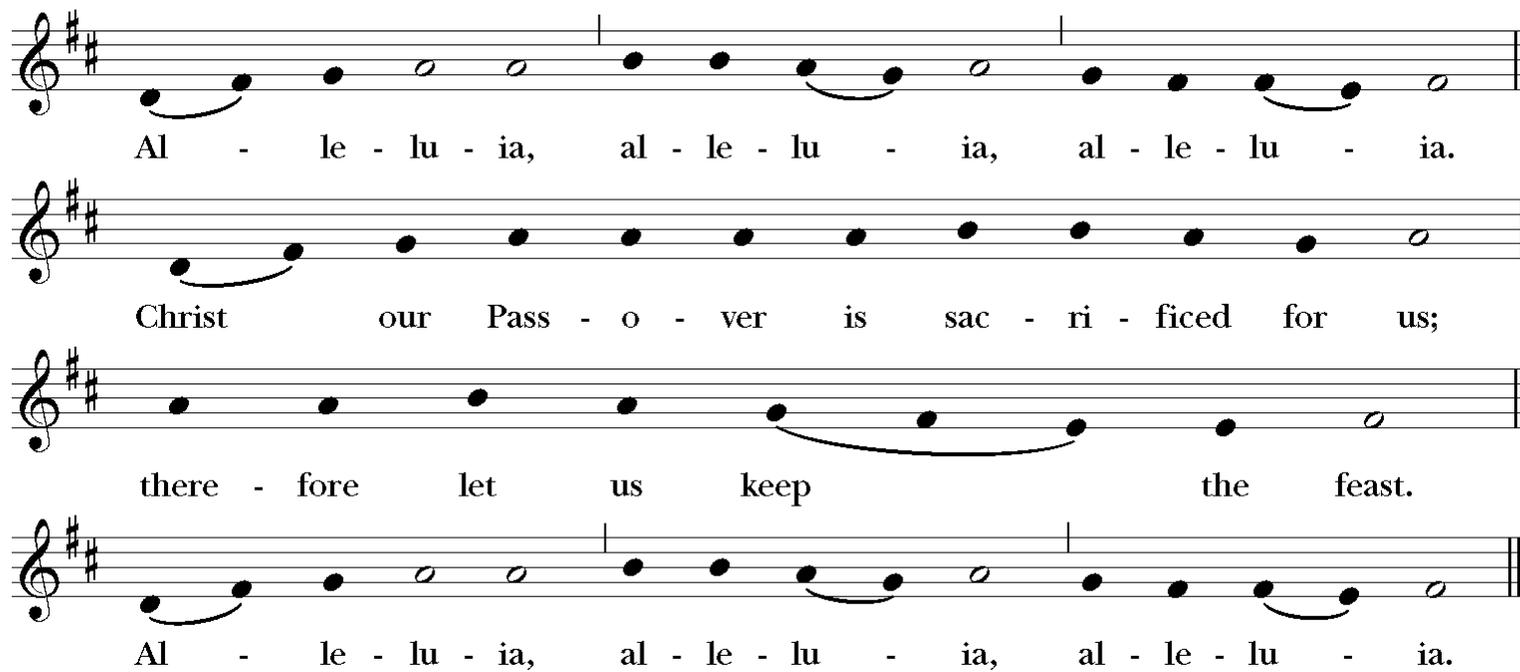
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then all sing together

David Hurd



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are invited to receive the Sacrament in one kind.

If you desire a blessing instead, cross your arms over your chest.

The Sacrament is administered with the following or other words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

COMMUNION ANTHEM

A City Called Heaven Spiritual arr. Norah Duncan IV
James Moore, Jr., *tenor*

I am on a pilgrim journey of sorrow. I'm left in this whole wide world.
I'm left in this wide world alone. I have no hope for tomorrow,
but I've started to make heaven my home.

Well, sometimes, I'm tossed. Sometimes I am driven low.
Sometimes, my dear Lord, I don't know to which way I can roam.
But I've heard of a city called Heaven, and I've started to make heaven my home.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **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.

DANCE SOLO

As the Celebrant and Crucifer process into the Columbarium, the Family and Congregation follow, singing

HYMN

For all the saints

Hymnal 287

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:
thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, the one true Light. Alleluia, alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia, alleluia!

THE COMMITTAL

Celebrant In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Kathryn, and we commit her body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

As the final resting place is sealed, the Celebrant chants

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.

Then the Celebrant continues

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

People **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon her.

May Kathryn's soul, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Improvisation

All are invited to a repast in Ledyard Hall.

*There is a river
that springs deep
from within
Which nourishes
reason's profluent
countryside
And washes ashore
through words.
The universal in
men
Then quietly recedes
with solitude's ebb tide.*

-- Duke Ellis, Sr.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

<i>Celebrant & Preacher</i>	The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, <i>Rector</i>
<i>Musicians</i>	Dr. Edward Maki-Schramm, <i>Director of Music</i> Mr. James C. Moore, Jr., <i>tenor</i> The Christ Church Detroit Choir The Christ Church Detroit Bell Choir
<i>Speakers</i>	Nancy Flake-Johnson, Judy Gladney, Wendell Ellis
<i>Sacristan</i>	Liza Parkinson
<i>Floral Iconographer</i>	Richard Thomas
<i>Videographer</i>	Charles Atwater

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