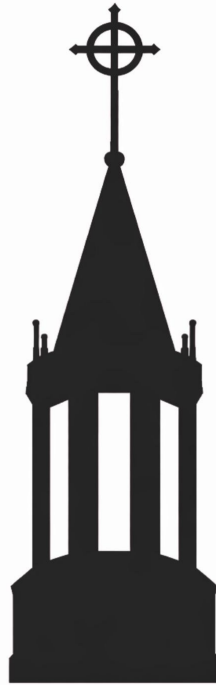


A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

John O'Connor McElroy

November 24, 1947 - September 15, 2026



ST. PAUL'S
Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

1:00 PM

CELEBRANT

THE REVEREND CALEB J. LEE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BURIAL OF THE DEAD, RITE II ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Prelude

Nimrod

Sir Edward Edgar

Please stand.

The Burial Sentences

Merbecke

The priests sings

I am the Resurrection and the Life saith the Lord. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. We brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Hymn

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound

New Britain

1 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.

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

4 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'd first begun.

The Collect

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Officiant: 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 who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33

Reader: A reading from Lamentations.

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 forever. 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: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Reading: Revelation 21:2-7

Reader: A reading from the Revelation of John.

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."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand.

Hymn 482

Lord of all hopefulness

Slane

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like,
no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
at the end of the day.

The Holy Gospel: John 6:37-40

Gospeller: 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."

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Homily

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

The Apostles Creed *Please stand.*

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

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

Intercessor: 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.

Intercessor: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.
Hear us, Lord.

Intercessor: You raised the dead to life; give our brother eternal life.
Hear us, Lord.

Intercessor: You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.
Hear us Lord.

Intercessor: Jack was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with
all your saints.
Hear us, Lord.

Intercessor: He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly
kingdom.
Hear us, Lord.

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

Celebrant: 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. *Amen.*

The Peace

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

People: *And also with you.*

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Music

Danny Boy

Derry Air

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

BCP 361

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 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:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, Holy, Holy

BCP 362

All: 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.

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:

All: 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 forever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven

Albert Hay Malotte

*Our Father which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread *A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Invitation to Communion

The Communion of the People

Communion stations are available at the altar rail and in the Baptistry. To receive the consecrated Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the Wine, please assist the chalice as it is offered; or, having consumed the Bread, you may return to your seat. We believe Christ fully present in either element. If you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, you may ask for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please speak to a priest when you come forward for Communion.

Communion Hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky

Daniel L. Schutte

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Refrain

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
Refrain

Refrain
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord, if You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
Refrain

1 I am the bread of life;
 They who come to me shall not hunger.
 They who believe in me shall not thirst.
 No one can come to me
 unless the Father draw them.

*And I will raise them up,
 And I will raise them up,
 And I will raise them up on the last day.*

2 The Bread that I will give
 is my Flesh for the life of the world,
 and they who eat of this bread,
 they shall live forever.
 they shall live forever.

Refrain

4 I am the resurrection,
 I am the life.
 They who believe in me,
 even though they die,
 they shall live forever.

Refrain

5 Yes, Lord we believe
 that you are the Christ,
 the Son of God
 who has come
 into the world.

Refrain

Prayer after Communion *Said together*

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.

Hymn 439

What wondrous love is this

Wondrous Love

1 What wondrous love is this,
 O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this,
 O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this
 that caused the Lord of bliss
 to lay aside his crown
 for my soul, for my soul,
 to lay aside his crown for my soul.

2 To God and to the Lamb
 I will sing, I will sing,
 to God and to the Lamb I will sing.
 To God and to the Lamb,
 who is the great I AM ,
 while millions join the theme,
 I will sing, I will sing,
 while millions join the theme
 I will sing!

3 And when from death I'm free,
 I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
 and when from death I'm free,
 I'll sing on.
 And when from death I'm free
 I'll sing and joyful be,
 and through eternity
 I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
 and through eternity I'll sing on.

The Commendation

Celebrant: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

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

Deacon: 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: 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.*

Celebrant: 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. *Amen.*

**Procession to
the Bellamy Memorial Garden**

Highland Cathedral

Ulrich Rover and Michael Korb

The congregation is invited to follow the family in procession to the Bellamy Memorial Garden for The Committal.

THE COMMITTAL

A member of the clergy begins with the following words

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.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our beloved Jack and we commit his ashes to their 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. *Amen.*

Let us pray,

The Lord's Prayer (*Officiant and People*)

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.

Deacon: Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. And this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

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

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

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Deacon: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The people depart in peace.

The celebration of Jack's life will continue with a reception in the Parish Hall.

Memorial contributions may be made to:

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church
16 N. 16th St
Wilmington, NC 28401
www.spechurch.com*

or

*Lower Cape Fear LifeCare
1414 Physicians Dr.
Wilmington, NC 28401
www.lifecare.org*

† † †
Service Participants

Celebrant and Preacher

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Deacon

The Reverend Deacon Nick Kohlmann

Verger

Leon Tillery

Crucifer

Jeffrey Hughes

Eucharistic Ministers

Jeffrey Hughes

Dot Erway

Carolyn Demorest

Altar Server

Jeffrey Hughes

Ushers

Ron Morgan

Shannon Rowe

Dick Rowe

Don Bobo

Music

Dr. Brendan Conner, Organist

Peter MacArthur, Piper

Readers

Meaghan Thomas

TJ McElroy

Intercessor

The Reverend Deacon Nick Kohlmann

John “Jack” O’Connor McElroy
November 24, 1947 – September 15, 2026

John “Jack” O’Connor McElroy, 78, of Supply, North Carolina, formerly of Milford, Michigan, passed away peacefully on September 15, 2026, at Lower Cape Fear LifeCare Center in Bolivia, North Carolina.

Born on November 24, 1947, in Detroit, Michigan, Jack was a lifelong learner, a dedicated professional, a man of deep faith, and someone who never lost his sense of humor.

Jack attended St. Michael’s Elementary School and Brother Rice High School before graduating from the University of Detroit with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. After passing the CPA exam, he began his career with Plante Moran, where he worked as an auditor and management consultant. He later served as Chief Financial Officer of Michigan CAT, a Caterpillar equipment dealership. Throughout his career, Jack served on numerous boards in a variety of leadership roles, bringing his accounting expertise and practical wisdom to every organization he served.

Jack retired from his professional career in 2002, but retirement never meant slowing down. His love of accounting and his commitment to serving others continued throughout his life. He served as treasurer for St. George’s Episcopal Church in Milford, Michigan, and St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church in Shallotte, North Carolina. He served on neighborhood finance committees in both Milford and Supply, as well as the Stewardship Committee at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Wilmington. He also served as an auditor for the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, completing audits for churches throughout the diocese. True to form, Jack was diligently working to finish an audit the very night before he was taken to the hospital.

Jack was a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Wilmington, where his faith and service remained an important part of his life.

Jack is survived by his beloved wife of 46 years, Kathy (Anderson) McElroy; his daughter, Meaghan McElroy Thomas (Greg); his son, Tyler John “TJ” McElroy (Becky); and his three grandchildren, Thomas, Amelia and Ben. He is also survived by his sister, Kathleen Schultz, and eight nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Betty McElroy; his brothers, Jim and Tim McElroy; and two nieces.

Outside of work and church, Jack enjoyed a full and active life. He loved fishing, golf, canoeing, and biking, especially the bike rides he shared with Kathy in their earlier years. He enjoyed reading and science-fiction movies, making people laugh with his jokes, and, naturally, creating spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel. He was also proud to be the president of his beer club and enjoyed keeping up with current events and politics.

Jack will be remembered for his sharp mind, generous spirit, dry sense of humor, devotion to his family, and willingness to lend his time and talents to the people and organizations he cared about. He leaves behind a lifetime of service, countless spreadsheets, plenty of stories and jokes, and a family and community who will miss him dearly.

A memorial service celebrating Jack’s life will be held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Wilmington, North Carolina, on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.