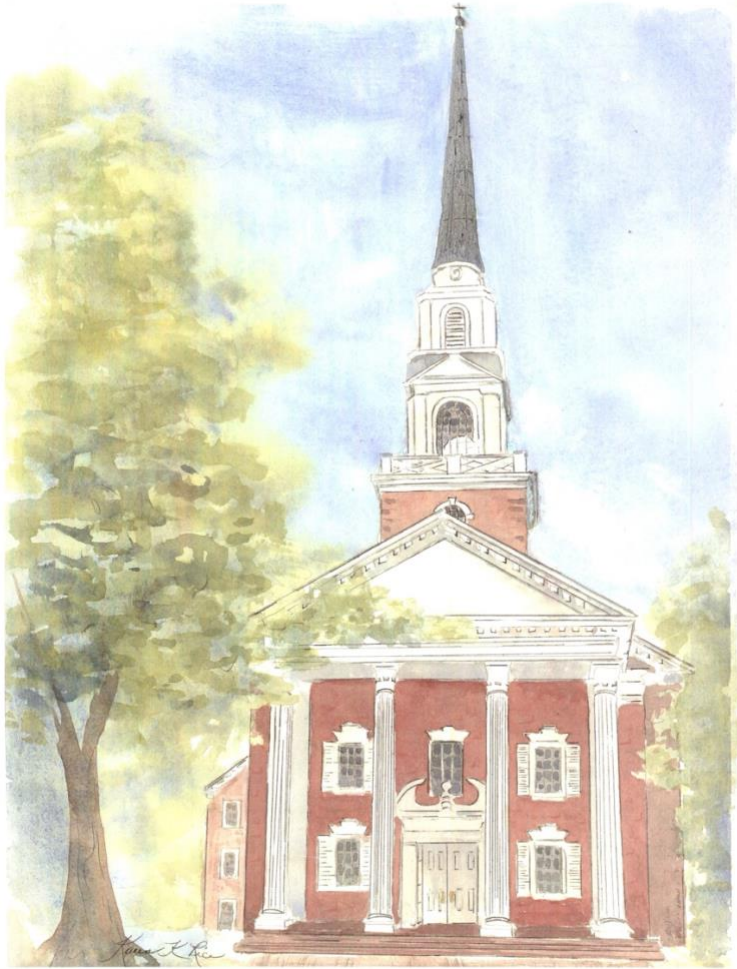


A Service of Witness to the Resurrection
March 14, 1933 - April 24, 2026
Martha Snow Coffey



WHITE MEMORIAL
— PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH —
Raleigh, North Carolina

Order of Worship - Witness to the Resurrection

Martha Snow Coffey

May 28, 2026

* Please rise in body or spirit.

Prelude Karl Zinsmeister & Eric Nanz

Call to Worship Grier Booker Richards

*Hymn 450 – Be Thou My Vision SLANE

Prayer of Invocation

Readings

From *A Room Called Remember* by Frederick Buechner Nelson Coffey

A Blessing for Old Age by John O'Donohue John Coffey

Let Nothing Disturb You by St. Teresa of Avila Bill Fields

Psalms 139:1-18, 23-24 Tom Harris

Colossians 3:12-17

Words of Remembrance Grandchildren

Hymn – He Comes to Us as One Unknown REPTON

Homily

Prayers of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

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 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.

Witness to the Resurrection

*Hymn 643 – Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Charge & Benediction

*Postlude



Ushers distributed cards you may use to make note of your presence today. Please leave your completed card on the seat. You are welcome to greet the family in Pickard Hall after the service.

Martha Snow Coffey

March 14, 1933 – April 24, 2026



Early Life and Family Martha Caroline Snow was born in Raleigh on March 14, 1933, and spent her entire ninety-three years in the city she loved. She was the younger daughter of Raymond A. and Josephine LeSage Snow. Throughout her long life, Martha cherished memories of an idyllic childhood, growing up on St. Mary's Street, exploring the creeks and woods of her Hayes Barton neighborhood, and embarking on annual summer car trips to visit family in New England. After graduating from Broughton High School, she attended

Meredith College.

Marriage and Family Life In the summer of 1952, Martha met John Coffey at the North Carolina Debutante Ball. Their first date was a night flight over Raleigh, with Johnnie's flight instructor as chaperone since he had not yet received his pilot's license. The following year, they eloped to Florida and Havana. On the flight home an epic thunderstorm forced an emergency landing on a beach in Bimini. Thus, was launched sixty-one years of a marriage marked by devotion, shared adventures, and a driving commitment to their family. Together, Martha and Johnnie raised four children with love, purpose and the freedom to dream. Martha, often outnumbered but cheerfully engaged, nurtured each child's unique gifts and allowed them the freedom to pursue their passions in art history, teaching, physical therapy, and home building. In time, she warmly welcomed their partners and rejoiced in the arrival of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Character and Friendships Martha shared joy with everyone she met. Known for her gentle nature, she never uttered an unkind word and always looked for the good in others. Her patience, wisdom, and attentive listening made her a beloved friend to family, neighbors, and strangers alike. Martha was humble, insisting she was not remarkable, but simply tried to live a good life and serve others as her parents and church taught her. She found special joy in friendship, befriending generations of families in her Beckanna neighborhood over sixty-four years, evolving from a young mother to everyone's grandmother, gently wise and curious.

Community and Career Early in their marriage, Martha and Johnnie joined an informal supper club with eleven other couples, gathering monthly for nearly fifty years to share food, fun, and mutual support. Martha worked in nursing administration at Rex Hospital for thirty years, earning the affection and confidence of her colleagues. She especially cherished her relationships at White Memorial Presbyterian Church, the church her father helped establish, where she was the last surviving founding member.

Travel and Later Years Encouraged by her husband's love of travel, Martha explored the United States, Europe, and even journeyed up the Nile. After Johnnie's passing in 2015, she fulfilled a lifelong dream by making a pilgrimage to Israel with her son John and daughter-in-law Ann. She walked the streets of Jerusalem and the hills of Galilee, witnessed the sunrise over the Judean Desert, and saw the sun set into the Mediterranean.

Survivors Martha is survived by her four children: John Coffey (Ann Roth) of Raleigh; Nelson Coffey (Rick Reynen) of Saint Paul, Minn.; Caroline Fields (William) of Providence, R.I.; and Daniel Coffey (Martha Dearstyne) of Bellingham, Wash.; her five grandchildren: Charlotte Fields (John Wood) of Griswold, Ct., Evan Coffey (April Reeves) of S. Portland, Me., Larkin Coffey (Karina Soni) of Durham, N.C., William Fields (Meghan) of Raleigh, and Hayden Coffey (Morgan LaFrate) of Bellingham; and her six great-grandchildren: Caliope, Ava and Zoe Wood; Lenore and Darcy Coffey-Reeves, and Hadley Fields. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Louise Coffey of Naples, Fla., and by six nieces and nephews and their families.

Gratitude The family extends heartfelt thanks for invaluable assistance during Martha's last illness to Liisa Ogburn of Aging Advisors NC; to Jennifer Buschow and the caregivers of Nurturing Needs LLC, especially Lucy Gicharu; and to the team at Transitions LifeCare who compassionately served Martha and her family.

Memorial Contributions In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to organizations Martha supported during her lifetime: The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina; The American Macular Degeneration Foundation; White Memorial Presbyterian Church (1704 Oberlin Rd., Raleigh, NC 27608).

Martha found comfort in a blessing from Mother Julian of Norwich. Let it now serve as a benediction over her long and beautiful life:

All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
 2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
 3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
 4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -

heard; as though with-in a heart of stone, or shriv-eled seed in
 part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
 foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
 birth; to bear with-in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
 dored; the Christ in all the scrip-tures shown, as yet un - seen, but

dark-ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
 cross the sky of night with-in the heart, of night with-in the heart.
 tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
 sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
 not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high-est heav - en,

who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 to Fa - ther and to Son and Spir - it now be giv - en:

who, from our moth-ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom heaven and earth a - dore,

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be ev - er - more.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D/F#) (A7) (D)

E^b A^b E^b/G B^b7 E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) (D) (G) (A)

B^b E^b A^b B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)

A^b E^b Gm7 A^b B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F#) (G) (D)

Cm E^b/G A^b E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927

Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

SLANE
10.10.10.10