

## Obituary



**Ellen Curley O'Brien**, 79, of Chapel Hill, NC, died on June 11, 2022. She was born in Boston, MA on May 25, 1943, to the late Edward and Loretta (Fitzgerald) Curley. Her grandparents were born in Ireland. She graduated from Notre Dame High School and Stonehill College. She spent her career as a social worker in Quincy, MA, selflessly serving family, friends, and the community-at-large.

Ellen brought life, laughter, and good food into many lives – her family, her friends and neighbors, her caregivers, and so many people she met with along the way. She never met a stranger.

She is survived by her son, Timothy Clement O'Brien (Mindy Douglas) of Durham, NC, her step-grandson Tyler Adams of Wilmington, NC, and Joe Quirk and the late

Carol Desmond, both of Quincy, MA, friends for life. She also leaves behind nephews Martin Quirk of Providence, RI, Stephen Curley of Scottsdale, AZ, and Michael Curley of Chicago, and niece Susan Curley of Jamestown, RI.



### MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

**Ministers** Elizabeth Douglas Blair, Officiant,  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Laurinburg NC

Joseph S. Harvard, Pastor Emeritus  
First Presbyterian Church, Durham NC

**Musicians** Kathy Cain Parkins, Minister of Music  
First Presbyterian Church, Durham NC

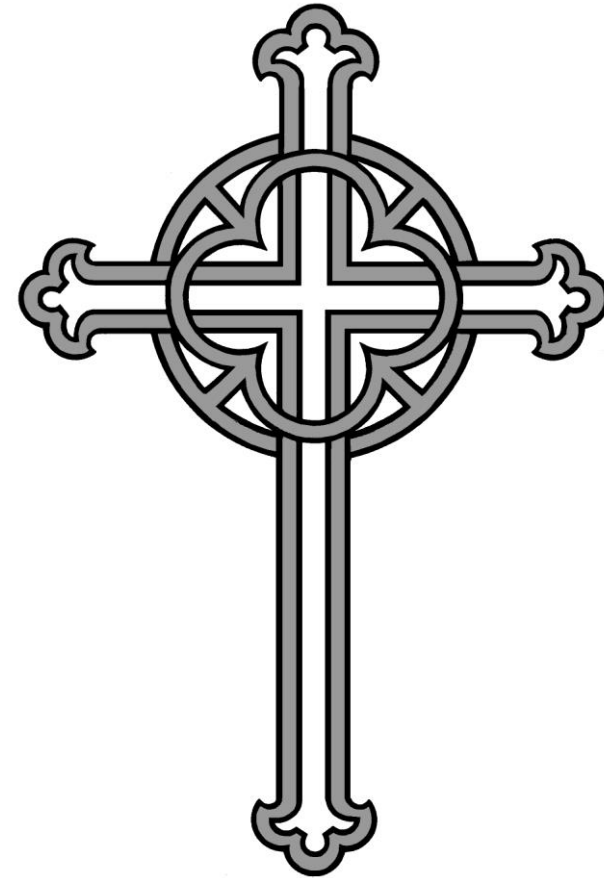
Cathy Snell, soloist  
First Presbyterian Church, Durham NC

### WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

*The resurrection is a doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses in the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve. The service of Witness to the Resurrection is an affirmation of faith in God's love for all people, a love that strengthens and supports even in the midst of grief. In this service we bear witness to the sure and certain hope of eternal life, promised in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*



305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919-682-5511  
ORGANIZED 1871



## A Service of Witness to the Resurrection

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

11:00 AM

JUNE 16, 2022

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION  
AND CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF  
**ELLEN CURLEY O'BRIEN**  
MAY 25, 1943 – JUNE 11, 2022

*(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)*

\*PROCESSIONAL

Ministers and Family

PRELUDE

GREETING

Elizabeth Douglas Blair

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

\*OPENING SENTENCES (from Isaiah 40:28-31)

Leader: Do you not know? Have you not heard?

**People: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.**

Leader: Growing neither tired nor weary, God's understanding no one can fathom:

**People: Giving strength to the weary; increasing the power of the weak.**

Leader: Even youths grow tired and weary, and young ones stumble and fall;

**People: Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.**

Leader: They will soar on wings like eagles;

**People: They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.**

\*HYMN NO. 366

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*Hyfrydol*

PRAYER

Joseph S. Harvard

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 46

Isaiah 58:6-9a, 11-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SOLO

*Ave Maria*  
Cathy Snell

Franz Schubert

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Romans 8: 31-39

Revelation 21:1-5a

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Elizabeth Douglas Blair

MEDITATION

Elizabeth Douglas Blair

HYMN NO. 611

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*Hymn to Joy*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Joseph S. Harvard

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**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.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison) *Apostles' Creed*

Joseph S. Harvard

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;**

**the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body;**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 826

*Lift High the Cross*

*Crucifer*

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Elizabeth Douglas Blair

\*POSTLUDE

The family will receive friends at a reception in Watts-Hill Hall following the service.

\*Those who are able, please stand.