



**THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP**

**DECEMBER 20, 2025**

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**A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION**

**IN MEMORY OF**

**CAROLYN HARRIS VESTAL**

**JANUARY 29, 1943—AUGUST 21, 2025**

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

✠ **HYMN 687**

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

✠ **PRAYER**

Eternal God,  
our strength and our comfort,  
our hope and our help,  
your love cares for us in life  
and watches over us in death.  
We praise you for the great company  
of all those who have kept the faith,  
finished their race,  
and who now rest from their labor.  
Especially we thank you for Carolyn,  
whom you have now received into your presence.  
We are grateful for all she gave us,  
for the memories that will abide with us,  
and for the assurance that she lives forever  
in the peace and joy of your unending love.  
Take from us now our regrets and sorrows,  
and grant us your grace, we pray,  
that as we face the mystery of death  
we may see the light of eternity,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*silent prayer*

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✠ **DECLARATION**

**REMEMBRANCES**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Psalm 8  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Matthew 1:18-23

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

SOLO

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Holst

SERMON

✠ HYMN 110

*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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.

SOLO

“Evening Prayer” from *Hansel and Gretel*

Humperdinck

✠ HYMN 122

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

✠ COMMENDATION

✠ BLESSING

✠ RECESSIONAL

*Following the service, everyone is invited to a reception  
in the Gathering Area adjacent to the Sanctuary.*

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster

Rev. Keatan King

Rev. Omar Rouchon

Mathew Dirst, organist

Julia Fox, soloist



**CAROLYN HARRIS VESTAL**, 82, of Houston, Texas, died peacefully on August 21, 2025, after being visited by many family and friends during her last week. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Carolyn will always be remembered for her intelligence, teacher's heart, wicked humor, passion for serving others and love for her family.

Born on January 29, 1943, in Dallas Texas, Carolyn grew up as the only child of Julian and Ethel Harris. After her father returned from WW2 in 1945, she grew very close to her father, and they created a strong relationship of teasing and joking that carried on with her own family and students. She joined her local Girl Scout Troop and with her mother, they traveled all over the US and Mexico. This group of women became her lifelong friends who have supported each other and stayed connected through dozens of reunions over the years.

Carolyn went to Highland Park High School and upon graduation went up the road to Austin College in Sherman, TX. She met her future husband Bedford Vestal at college in the anatomy lab where they both majored in Biology graduating in 1965. They were very happily married for 50 years and produced 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Carolyn was a teacher at heart. Starting out teaching Chemistry and Biology to high school students in the 1960s in East Lansing, Michigan as a 22-year-old to becoming the lead expert on teaching visually impaired students of all ages in Norman, Oklahoma, Carolyn changed countless lives. She would get a lot of double takes driving around town with a bumper sticker on her car stating: "Driver Reads Braille".

During her retirement, her passions were sewing, fabric art, card making, creating the best chocolate pudding, teasing everyone, drinking Coca-Cola, reading, traveling, and taking care of all 5 grandkids each summer for a very memorable time at their annual Grandkids Camp.

Carolyn is preceded in death by her husband Bedford and daughter Sarah. She is survived by her son Warden Vestal, daughter-in-law Leslie and two grandchildren Cassie and Alex, and son Wesley Vestal, daughter-in-law Jenny and granddaughters Molly, Lucy and Caroline.

Memorial contributions can be made to the St. Philip Day School in Houston, TX or Lighthouse for the Blind in Houston, TX.