
We Remember the Deceased

**An article from the *Cathedral Times*
by the Very Reverend Samuel G. Candler,
Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip**

*The cords of death entangled me;
The grip of the grave took hold of me;
I came to grief and sorrow.*

*Then I called upon the Name of the Lord;
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."*

*Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
Our God is full of compassion,*

*The Lord watches over the innocent;
I was brought very low, and he helped me.*

*Turn again to your rest, O my soul,
For the Lord has treated you well.*

*For you have rescued my life from death,
My eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.*

*... Precious in the sight of the Lord,
Is the death of his servants." ""Psalm 116:2-7, 13.*

This first week of November is a holy week in the Church, and at the Cathedral of St. Philip, for we remember the deceased among us. I am struck by the sweet words of Psalm 116, which struggle with the possibility of death; finally, at verse 13, the psalmist concludes: "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants." (Other versions read "death of his saints.")

It is because we believe that every soul is precious to our God, that we host the annual Requiem Eucharist for the Homeless of Atlanta each year. This is our way of honoring the names of God's people whose names might not be remembered anywhere else on this sacred day. For the past 23 years, these nights have become occasions where we have glimpsed a vision of the kingdom of heaven: all God's people""the living and the dead, poor and rich, white and black""sharing fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." The Church seeks to be a part of that refreshment of Jesus especially when we encounter death; and we always pray for God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.

This Sunday, All Saints Sunday, we will remember more of the deceased, especially those who have been on our parish prayer list at some time during the past year. The 4:00 afternoon service will be given over to a choral Eucharist for that very purpose, including reading the names of each precious soul who has been on that prayer list”and others, as we have been asked.

Join us. Join us throughout this week, All Saints Week, and help us to remember the servants of God whose deaths have been precious. As we speak their names, as we remember their lives, God blesses them and us. And, together, we are blessed.

Sam Candler signature



The Very Reverend Sam Candler

© The Cathedral of St. Philip. All rights reserved.