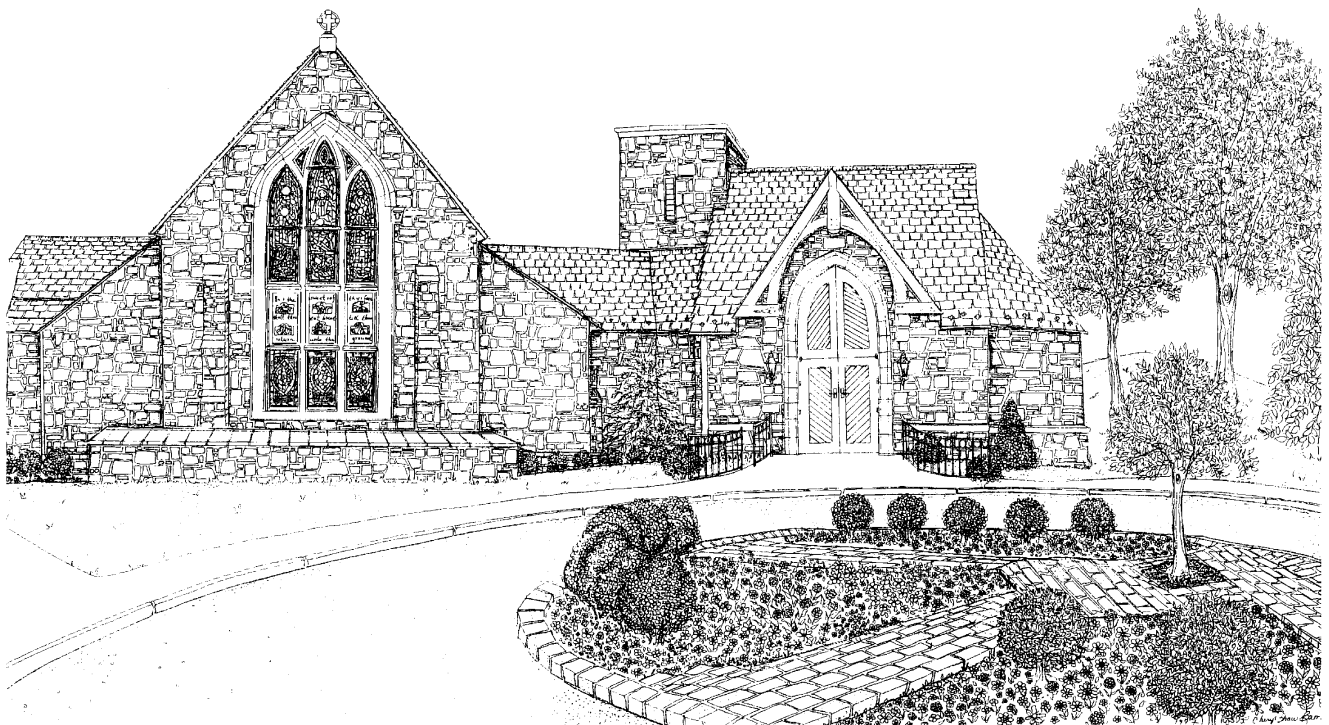




The Burial of the Dead Rite I  
*Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 1:00 p.m.*

Steven Richard Saunders  
November 11, 1946 - July 5, 2025



## THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

### *From the Book of Common Prayer*

The Liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### PRELUDE

Vor deinen Thron tret' ich hiermit, BWV 668 ( <i>"Before Your Throne I Now Appear"</i> )	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
The Peace May Be Exchanged	Dan Locklair (b. 1949)

*The people stand as able.*

### THE OPENING ANTHEM

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;  
And though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God:  
Whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,  
And not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,  
And no man dieth to himself.  
For if we live, we live unto the Lord;  
And if we die, we die unto the Lord.  
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;  
Even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

## THE COLLECT

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Steve, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## REMEMBRANCES

Myrna Ann Adkins

*President Emerita, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning  
Long time friend of Saunders family*

Michael Kenny

Mike Mitchell

*Thankful to have Steve in my life.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Read by Dennis Collins, *Brother-in-law*

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Lamentations.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Lector* A reading from the book of first John.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The psalm is read responsively by whole verse*

## PSALM 23

Read Responsively by Erin Saunders, *Daughter*

1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.

**2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

3 He restoreth my soul, he leadeth me  
in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

*The people stand.*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*The people are seated.*

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Anne M. Turner

*The people stand.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

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 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.

THE PRAYERS

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. **Amen.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. **Amen.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust Steven to thy never-failing love; receive him into the arms of thy mercy, and remember him according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. **Amen.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### THE COMMENDATION

*Celebrant* Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,

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

*Celebrant* Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Celebrant* Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Steven. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

#### THE BLESSING

#### THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## THE CLOSING ANTHEMS

*Celebrant*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,  
and giving life to those in the tomb.

The Sun of Righteousness is gloriously risen,  
giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world.

Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in his Name,  
saying, Come, O blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you.

Into paradise may the angels lead thee; and at thy coming may the martyrs receive thee,  
and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem.

VOLUNTARY

Amazing Grace

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### THOSE SERVING TODAY

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*Celebrant and Preacher*

The Rev. Dr. Anne M. Turner

*Lector*

Dennis Collins, Mary Murphy, Erin Saunders

*Music Director*

Dr. Alain Truche

*Altar Guild Crew Leader*

Lucy-Lee Reed

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Please join us for a Celebration of Steve's Life immediately following the service.  
Come share your stories and memories with everyone and have a good time.

**Clyde's at Mark Center**  
1700 N. Beauregard St.  
Alexandria, VA 22311  
703-820-8300

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## **Steven Richard Saunders**

*November 11, 1946 - July 5, 2025*

Steven Richard Saunders 78, of Alexandria, VA died on July 5, 2025 from cancer. Steve was born November 11, 1946 in Newark, NJ. He grew up in Elmont, L.I. NY, the son of Lawrence Jay Saunders and Sarah Leinoff Saunders. He graduated from Elmont Memorial High School and Washington and Lee University (1968). He married Maureen Collins in 1977.

Steve loved history and politics, and his career reflected that: History teacher at The Lawrenceville School in NJ, Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Oyster Bay, Legislative Director & Press Secretary to US Rep. N. Lent (NY), Staff Director of the Republican Conference, and Communications Director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

One of his favorite jobs was Assistant U.S. Trade Representative. Its focus on Asia would shape the rest of his career. Steve founded Saunders & Co. in 1982, an international business and public policy consulting firm for Pacific Basin countries. At the same time, he opened an art gallery, Perry House Gallery in Alexandria. In 1998, he became President of the U.S.-Mongolia Business Council developing a special relationship with Mongolia's people and their culture. The President of Mongolia awarded Steve the Order of the Polar Star, the highest tribute bestowed on a foreigner. It was Steve's honor to serve the Foreign Ministry of Japan and the Japanese Embassy in Washington, DC for 38 years. His career gave him a life of travel, visiting countries and cultures he fell in love with, especially Japan, China, and Mongolia.



Steve's gift was human connection, making deep friendships all over the world. He had an infectious personality and looked at the bright side, the good in people. He was witty with an excellent sense of humor. He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, always reading and researching across multiple disciplines, including politics, trade, religion, and history. He was a great admirer of Teddy Roosevelt, a member of the T.R. Association and briefly wore a Park Ranger hat as Ranger-Historian at Roosevelt's home.

Steve had a diverse collection of Asian & Native American art and enjoyed sharing the stories of his travels and collections. He never lost the teaching bug, mentoring and teaching as he went along, getting the greatest satisfaction from constantly and quietly helping others. He loved the beach, museums, and being home with Maureen and their children.

Steve was beloved as a wonderful Dad, husband, grandfather, and friend. Steve is survived by his wife of 48 years Maureen Collins Saunders, daughters Keira and Erin, son Burke, granddaughter Mia, his mother-in-law, Naomi Collins, many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Robert Saunders.

The funeral service will be held Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 1 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church of Alexandria VA, 3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22305. A reception, a Celebration of Steve's Life will be held immediately after the funeral. Details for the Celebration Reception will be provided later.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Steve's name to the American Indian College Fund, a cause Steve long supported. [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org).

# Remembering and Thanking, Steve Saunders

By Tsahia Elbegdorj, *Former President of Mongolia*

Today, we honor the memory and legacy of Steve Saunders, a visionary leader and a dear friend. From the earliest days of Mongolia's democratic transition, Steve believed deeply in our nation's future. In the early 1990s, he was among the first Americans to champion business, education, and political ties with Mongolia, helping lay the foundation for a strong market economy and a lasting partnership between our peoples.

Steve first came to Mongolia in the 1990s as one of the pioneering political development advisors with the International Republican Institute, just as Mongolia was taking its first bold steps toward multiparty democracy. He recognized early on that Mongolia's success would depend on political reform and strengthening international economic ties. As president of the North America-Mongolia Business Council (NAMBC), Steve became a tireless advocate for trade, investment, and policy dialogue.

He believed in the potential of U.S.-Mongolia relations and what we now call "Third Neighbor" cooperation. Under his leadership, NAMBC became more than a business platform, it became a vital bridge for greater understanding between our peoples. Steve's message was consistent and clear: Mongolia matters, and Mongolia is ready, whether in Ulaanbaatar boardrooms, at investor forums, or in a herder's ger in the countryside.

Steve's dedication to our democratic journey never faltered. He encouraged American businesses and institutions to see opportunity and recognize Mongolia as a country of shared values worthy of trust and long-term commitment. His advocacy was always grounded in respect, friendship, and a belief that we could build together in the future.

He was more than a leader. He was a mentor, a tireless bridge-builder, and a steadfast believer in Mongolia's promise. I will always be grateful for his friendship, wisdom, and unwavering support. In recognition of his many contributions, he was awarded the Order of the Polar Star—our highest honor for a foreign friend.

We offer our deepest condolences to Steve's family, friends, and colleagues. His work lives on in the enduring partnerships he helped shape and the lives he touched. Of all his remarkable qualities, perhaps the greatest was his ability to bring people from vastly different backgrounds closer together.

That was Steve's true gift, one we must now carry forward.

*Posted on X.com - <https://x.com/elbegdorj/status/1948882698266616190>*

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## A Life Well Lived

A life well lived is a precious gift  
Of hope and strength and grace,  
From someone who has made our world  
A brighter, better place  
It's filled with moments, sweet and sad  
With smiles and sometimes tears,  
With friendships formed and good times shared  
And laughter through the years.  
A life well lived is a legacy  
Of joy and pride and pleasure,  
A living, lasting memory  
Our grateful hearts will treasure

- Author Unknown

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## Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Road ♦ Alexandria, VA 22305

[www.GraceAlex.org](http://www.GraceAlex.org) ♦ 703.549.1980