



The Hon. William John Saunderson

June 28, 1933 - February 24, 2026

March 13, 2026 at 2pm

*The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada*

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

*Please ensure that cell phones are turned off.
Photography is not permitted during the liturgy.*

Officiant	<i>The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields</i>
Homilist	<i>The Most Reverend Colin Johnson</i>
Remembrances	<i>Brian Saunderson Janet Saunderson</i>
Readers	<i>J. Douglas Grant Hayley Kersten</i>
Tributes	<i>Spencer Kersten (Persistence) Max Saunderson (Courage) Madeleine, Jacob, Nathan and Nicole Werker (group reading)</i>
Intercessor	<i>Pamela Saunderson</i>
Organist	<i>Jean-Paul Feo</i>
Choristers	<i>Natasha Fransblow, Erica Harvey Jane Forner, Peter Koniers Jonathan Stuchbery, Malcolm MacDonald Henry Paterson, Martin Gomes</i>
Trumpeter	<i>Brennan Schommer</i>

Order of Service

Prelude Panis Angelicus

César Franck

Burial Sentences

William Croft

Greeting

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome

Remembrances *by The Children*

Hymn

Tune: Melita

All Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm restrains the restless wave,
who bids the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed bounds to keep;
we cry, O God of majesty,
for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
and hushed their raging at your word,
who walked across the surging deep,
and in the storm lay calm in sleep:
we cry, O Lord of Galilee,
for those in peril on the sea.

Creator Spirit, by whose breath
were fashioned sea and sky and earth;
who made the stormy chaos cease
gave us life and light and peace:
we cry, O Spirit strong and free,
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
preserve their lives in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, flood and flame,
protect them by your holy name,
and to your glory let there be
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting (1825-1878); Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

The Collect

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, the maker and redeemer of all, grant us, with your servant, *William John*, and all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection; that in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Reading

Psalm 23

Reader

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you
have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I
will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Reader

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Tribute

Readings by The Grandchildren

Hymn

Tune: Hymn to Joy

All

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Text: Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

Reader

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reader

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Anthem And I Saw a New Heaven

E. L. Bainton

And I saw a new heaven, and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away,
and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem,
coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying:
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people,
and God himself shall be with them and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain,
for the former things are passed away

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, we thank you for our father, who was so near and dear to us, and who has now been taken from us.

We thank you for the friendship he gave and for the strength and peace he brought.

We thank you for the love he offered and received while he was with us on earth.

We pray that nothing good in his life will be lost, but will be of benefit to the world; that all that was important to him will be respected by those who follow; and that everything in which he was great will continue to mean much to us now that he is no longer with us.

We ask you that he may go on living in his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, his family and his friends, in their hearts and minds, in their courage and their consciences.

We ask you that we who were close to him may now, because of his death, be even closer to each other, and that we may, in peace and friendship here on earth, always be deeply conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death.

We pray for ourselves, who are severely tested by this death, that we do not try to minimize this loss, or seek refuge from it in words alone, and also that we do not brood over it so that it overwhelms us and isolates us from others.

May God grant us courage and confidence in the new life of Christ. We ask this in the name of the risen Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say.

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Kontakion

Choir Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints:
Where sorrow and pain are no more;
Neither sighing but life everlasting.
Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of man:
And we are mortal formed from the dust of the earth,
And unto earth shall we return:
For so thou didst ordain,
When thou created me saying:
“Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return.”

All we go down to the dust;
And weeping o'er the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints:
Where sorrow and pain are no more;
Neither sighing but life everlasting.

Prayer of Commendation

Officiant Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant *William John*. Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord.

People **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

Officiant May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People **Amen.**

Blessing

Officiant May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

TAPS

Announcement

Hymn
All

Tune: Praise, My Soul

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor
to our forebears in distress;
praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless;

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Ps. 103; para Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)
Music: John Goss (1800-1880)

Postlude

*All are welcome to a reception at the Albany Club
immediately following the service.*

**The Hon. William John Saunderson, F.C.P.A., F.C.A.
(June 28, 1933 - February 24, 2026)**



It is with immense sadness, but above all, a sense of gratitude for a long life fully lived, that the Saunderson family shares the loss of a dear husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, William John Saunderson. Bill was the captain of our ship, leading us on many adventures. He taught us how to read the skies, navigate the waters, stay calm when leaks happen, and to enjoy the voyage - including the spray on your face. Bill is survived by his wife of 68 years, Meredith (Robinson). Together, they were the unstoppable "MaxMert" team, sharing a love of family, pets and a myriad of interests that took them all over the world.

Among their many accomplishments, Bill and Meredith raised three wonderful children: Janet (Ian), Brian (Susan), and Pamela (Stephen). He was a proud grandfather to Madeleine (Taylor), Jacob (Ania), Nathan (Stephanie), Nicole, Dylan, Max, Cole, Spencer, and Hayley. Delighted great grandfather to Josah, Norah, Luna, Silvy, and Billie. Beloved uncle to his many nieces and nephews. Bill was predeceased by his parents, Margaret and George Saunderson; his siblings, Peg Harris (Irving), Mary Chamberlain (Clive), and Peter (Sally); and his siblings-in-law, Joan Grierson (Bill), and John Robinson (Lyn).

Bill grew up in Toronto's High Park area, where he attended Howard Park Public School, before his family moved to a country home in Maple, Ontario. He continued his education in a two-room schoolhouse, followed by University of Toronto Schools (UTS) and later, Trinity College, University of Toronto. He is a retired officer of the Royal Canadian Navy. After graduation, Bill joined Clarkson Gordon, where he launched his career as a chartered accountant. His profession was key to the rest of his career.

With great foresight in 1971, Bill and six colleagues founded Sceptre Investment Counsel Ltd., where he served as Vice President for 24 years. Sceptre quickly earned a reputation as a successful investment company that was trusted and progressive. It changed the dynamic of the investment industry. Bill believed that solid financial management is fundamental to the success of any organization, a conviction that inspired and guided his deep community involvement.

He combined his financial acumen with his engaging personality to forge strong connections and make meaningful, lasting contributions to sport (Rowing Canada, Devil's Glen Ski Club); culture (Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Shaw Festival, The Hnatyshyn Foundation); education (UTS, Crescent School, Trinity College, University of Ottawa, Trent University); community (Interval House); and healthcare (Toronto Rehab, Sick Kids and Michael Garron Hospitals). Other board memberships included the Canadian Public Service Pension Investment Board, Colliers International, ROI Fund Inc., and the Canadian Osteopathic Education Trust Fund. Bill enjoyed his many years as chair of the Diocese of Toronto Investment Committee.

Over the years, Bill was recognized in many ways. He received the Award of Outstanding Merit from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, the Order of the Diocese of Toronto, and honorary doctorates from the University of Ottawa and Trinity College, U of T. Bill had a lifelong interest in politics. From the early 1960s in Eglinton riding, he was involved in every aspect of elections, municipal, provincial, and federal. In 1984 and 1988, he was National Comptroller for the P.C. Party of Canada federal election campaign. In 1995, he was elected MPP for Eglinton riding and appointed Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

Following his time in the Legislature, he was named Chairman of Ontario Exports Incorporated. A Queen's Park colleague at the time, described Bill as a man with "integrity, kindness and princely manners." Bill was passionate about sport. At UTS, he thrived on the playing fields, enjoying both football and hockey. An avid sports fan, Bill was always faithful to the home team. He regaled his grandchildren with stories of hard-won trophies and impressed them with his encyclopedic knowledge of baseball and hockey.

Above all, Bill was loyal and steadfast to his family. As a father, he offered immeasurable fun, family trips and celebratory traditions. In 1965, he spotted an old schoolhouse near Collingwood, which has become a beloved family retreat, hosting famous parties, and leading to many skiing and hiking adventures. From early childhood, Bill summered at the family cottage at Island 61 on Georgian Bay. His camp counsellor enthusiasm was contagious and we will treasure our memories of sailing, fishing, water skiing, cribbage, and "Walter" stories.

We salute our Captain. The family is grateful for the services of NYGH Palliative Care Team, especially Carolyn Wilson NP. We also want to thank Sophia Idahosa, Rani Costa, Mona Rimando, and Tessie Sumilang for their love and support. If so wished, memorial donations may be directed to UTS, The Hnatyshyn Foundation, or the Shaw Festival Foundation.



The Cathedral Church of St. James

Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada

65 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M5C 2E9

Cathedral Centre: (416) 364-7865

info@stjamescathedral.ca • www.stjamescathedral.ca

Bishop of Toronto

The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil

Suffragan Bishops

The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw

The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson

Rector of St. James Cathedral & Dean of Toronto

The Very Reverend Dr. Stephen Hance

Sub-Dean & Vicar

The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

Canon Missioner

The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts

Assistant Curate

The Reverend Matthew Waterman

Vicar of St. Bartholomew, Regent Park

The Reverend Dr. Walter Hannam

Director of Music & Organist

Thomas Bell

Children's Community Choir Director

Cara Halpin

Children, Youth, and Family Minister

Karyne Whalen

Honorary Verger

Paul D. Seddon, ODT