

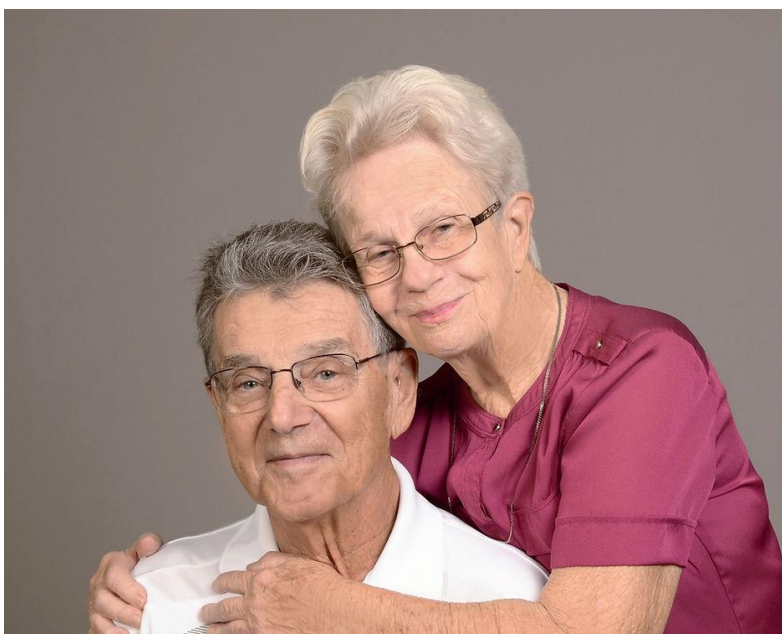
In Celebration and Memory of
Vera Charlyn Balabanis

March 6, 1931 – July 16, 2024

and

Achilles “Killy” Balabanis

July 1, 1931 – May 29, 2024



Saturday, August 3, 2023 *2:30 p.m.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
10233 W. Peoria Ave.
Sun City, Arizona 85381
623-972-1100

office@stchristophers-az.org

In loving memory of Achilles Balabanis and Vera Charlyn Balabanis.

Achilles Balabanis, one month shy of 93 years, and Vera Charlyn Balabanis, aged 93, of Sun City, Phoenix, passed away within 48 days of each other, on May 29, 2024, and July 16, 2024, respectively. Together they lived a life filled with love, laughter, music, and dedication to family and community during their 71 years of marriage.

Achilles Balabanis graduated from high school in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a cello in his hand. He accepted a scholarship to the University of Kansas, where he met Vera Charlyn, the love of his life and they married his senior year. Vera Charlyn, a talented soprano from Partridge, Kansas graduated from the University of Kansas with a teaching and performing music degree.

The couple moved to Sublette, Kansas where Achilles accepted a job as a music teacher, until he enlisted in the army in 1955. Vera Charlyn then took over his teaching position. Stationed in Germany playing cello in the Seventh Army Symphony, Achilles toured Europe, with the orchestra featuring Vera Charlyn as a soloist. After that term, Achilles accepted a job teaching orchestra in all Wichita Falls, Texas high schools. Vera Charlyn was hired by Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Wichita Falls as a soloist in their choir, performed in operas, taught vocal lessons, and mothered four children.

The family moved to Beaumont, Texas, where Achilles taught music at Lamar Technical College for two years. Vera Charlyn sang and directed a choir at St. Stevens Episcopal Church. Achilles then accepted a position teaching in Moscow, Idaho at the University of Idaho while Vera Charlyn taught elementary music. Achilles landed his dream job as a music teacher at Eastern Washington State College, principal cellist for the Spokane Symphony, and later cellist for the Spokane String Quartet, the highlight of which was performing at Carnegie Hall.

Ordained as an Episcopal deacon, he served communities for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cheney, Washington, and Washington state Cursillo weekend retreats. He retired after 25 years and earning emeritus status. While in Cheney, Vera Charlyn continued soloing for the Spokane Symphony, teaching elementary music and music education classes for Eastern Washington University, and providing voice lessons. She too was active as choir director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cheney and served on many Cursillo teams. Achilles and Vera Charlyn moved to Phoenix to play golf year-round. Both served as active members of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Sun City. Achilles continued to play cello and participated in a men's

Bible study group. Both Achilles and Vera Charlyn sang in the choir and worked on a team providing lunches for the homeless.

They are survived by three daughters, Nadine Baxter, Helen Balabanis, and Kathryn Peabody; their daughter-in-law, Katharine Nelson; their grandchildren, Daniel Balabanis, Ryan Peabody, Austin Peabody, Alec Balabanis, and Elena Balabanis; their great-grand daughter, Khloe Peabody; Achilles' sister, Toula Chininis, and Vera Charlyn's sisters, Jeanne White, Thelma Schmidt, and Celia Boyea, and her brother Bill Dixon. They are predeceased by their son, David Balabanis, Achilles sister Rebecca Balabanis, Vera Charlyn's sisters Harriet Foss, Mildred DeWitt, Virginia Field, June Foss, Dorothy Nossman, Donna Holmes, and her brother, Richard Dixon.

The family welcomes all who were touched Achilles and Vera Charlyn's warmth and generosity.

Welcome to St. Christopher's today.

The service is taken from the Book of Common Prayer according to the use of The Episcopal Church—The Burial of the Dead Rite II which begins on page 491.

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 Chris has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we are sad and sympathize with those who mourn because we miss him.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

Fr. Gerardo Brambila+
Rector

Worship Leaders

Celebrant

The Rev. Gerardo Brambila

Verger

Patty Emanuelson

Chalice Bearers

Al Franco
Betty Roddy

Readings

Old Testament: Wisdom 3:1-5,9

The Psalm: Psalm 130

New Testament: Revelation 21: 2-7

The Gospel: John 14: 1-6

Ushers

Altar Guild

Organist & Music Director

Mr. Donald Palm

2:30 p.m. Honor Ceremony for Achilles Balabanis by VA Guard

Burial of the Dead: Rite Two

The Book of Common Prayer

Prelude

I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked by Geoffrey O'Hara

Please stand as able

Celebrant: I am Resurrection, and I am life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life and has committed himself to me in faith shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last He will stand upon the earth. After my awaking, He will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold Him who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he dies. For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. So then whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord! So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother and sister Achilles and Vera. We thank you for giving them to us, their family, and friends, to know and to love as companions on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with the Balabanis family and all of us in our grief. Surround us with Your love, that we may not be overwhelmed by loss, but have

confidence in Your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Please be seated for the readings

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament: Wisdom 3:1-5,9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)

Lector: A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon
But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect....The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Psalm 130

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O LORD; *

Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well *

the voice of my complaint.

If thou, LORD, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee, *

therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the LORD; my soul doth wait for him; *

in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; *

I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy, *
and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he shall redeem **Israel** *
from all his sins.

New Testament
Revelation 21: 2-7
(Behold, I make all things new)

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true. Then He said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give *water* to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost. The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."

Please stand as you are able for the hymn and the Gospel reading

Gospel Hymn:

Amazing Grace

Bill Lynn

The Gospel: John 14: 1-6
(In my Father's house are many rooms)

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the

life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” ...The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Please be seated for the sermon

The Sermon The Rev. Gerardo Brambila

Celebrant: In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

Celebrant I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth

& People: 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.

Celebrant: For our siblings Achilles and Vera Charlynn let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am Resurrection, and I am Life.”

Celebrant: Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Achilles and Vera Charlyn and dry the tears of those who weep.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Celebrant: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Celebrant: You raised the dead to life; give to our brother and sister eternal life.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Celebrant: You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother and sister to the joys of heaven.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Celebrant: Our brother and sister were washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give them fellowship with all your saints.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Celebrant: They were nourished with your Body and Blood; grant them a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Celebrant: Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother and sister; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence may be kept

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our siblings Achilles and Vera Charlynn who were reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that their deaths may recall to us your victory over death and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Exchanging of a Sign of Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn: *Variations on Hymns*

Don Palm

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is

changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

S-129

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit or stand as you are able

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which was given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you. This my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people

the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace, and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

By him and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All: 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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Communion for the People

The people come forward to receive communion.

Please note: Everyone is invited to come forward during the distribution of bread and wine. Dip the tip of the host into the cup offered to receive the wine. If you choose to receive only a blessing, approach the priest with arms crossed over your chest to signify your desire.

Receiving the bread:

Celebrant: The body of Christ. The bread of heaven.

Receiver: **Amen.**

Receiving the wine:

Chalice Bearer: The blood of Christ. The cup of salvation.

Receiver: **Amen.**

Communion Hymn: *As Longs the Deer for Cooling Streams*

H-658

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Almighty God we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,

People: Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Celebrant: You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

The Celebrant, facing the body, says

Celebrant: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servants Achilles and Vera Charlyn. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Then, while earth is cast upon the urn, the Celebrant says these words

Celebrant: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our siblings, and we commit their bodies to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless them and keep them, the Lord make his face to shine upon them and be gracious to them, the Lord lift up his countenance upon them and give them peace. *Amen.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Let us pray

Celebrant: Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;

People: And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Celebrant: May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in

you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Dismissal Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

H-376

Postlude:

Thank you for joining Vera and Achilles's family and friends today to remember and celebrate our dear sister and brother, father, uncle, grandpa, and friend. You are invited to enjoy light refreshments in the hall next door to continue to share stories of Vera and Achilles's life with us.

