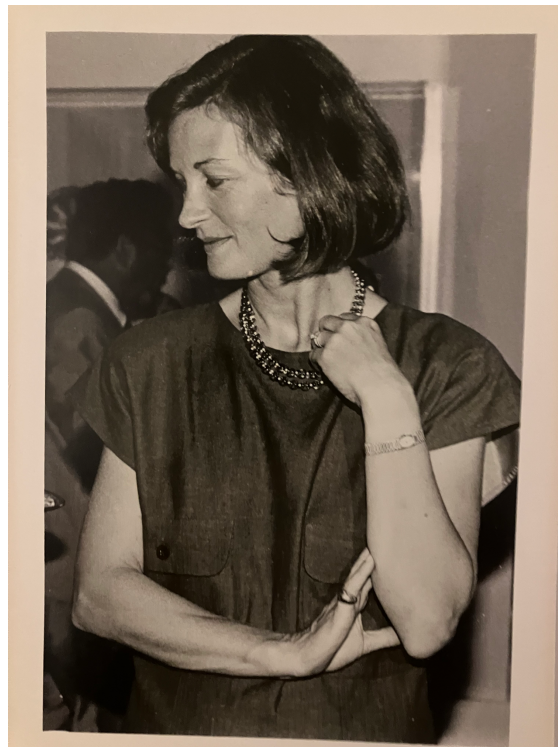


IN CELEBRATION OF AND IN THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF

SHEILA CANBY VOSS

10 JANUARY 1949

17 AUGUST 2025



Saturday, 25 October 2025
eleven o'clock in the morning

*Trinity Episcopal Church
Wilmington, Delaware*

Sheila Randolph Canby Voss

10 JANUARY 1949

17 AUGUST 2025

Sheila Canby, a Wilmington, Delaware, native and one of the world's foremost authorities on Islamic art, died Sunday, August 17, at Delaware Hospice in Milford, Delaware, of complications from cancer. She was 76. Thus ended a remarkable, vibrant life and career as an administrator and scholar of Persian art and culture that began, according to family lore, with an art course at Vassar that offered only cursory inspection of Islam but nevertheless ignited a lifelong passion that led to a doctorate from Harvard and then curatorial and research positions at museums in Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Boston, London and New York.

Of these, the most prominent were the British Museum in London, where she served as curator of Islamic art and antiquities from 1981 until 2009, at which point she reached the summit of her peripatetic journey – appointment as Patti Cadby Birch Curator in charge of the Metropolitan Museum's formidable collection of more than 12,000 works of art dating from the seventh to the twentieth century and reflecting the cultural and geographical sweep of Islamic civilization from Spain to India and beyond. There Sheila stayed until her retirement ten years later in 2019, organizing exhibitions, lecturing and helping to complete the museum's permanent gallery in 2011. The president of the Museum referred to the galleries as “the pride of the Met.” As necessary companions to the job, she wrote and edited numerous reviews and books (her offerings are majestic), raised funds, with Emily Rafferty, for the museum and traveled frequently to various capitals of the Islamic world in an effort to keep lines open and build bridges to Iran and other countries during a period of considerable diplomatic turbulence.

Her intensity belied a warm and cheerful soul, who leaves behind a host of friends and admirers, not least her colleagues. Her successor at the Met, Dr. Navina Haidar, put the matter thusly: “Sheila represented the finest traditions of art history, combining connoisseurship with keen scholarship and excellent writing.”

Sheila was born in Wilmington to Henry and Elizabeth Gawthrop Canby on January 10, 1949. She attended the Tower Hill School in Wilmington, DE and Ethel Walker's in Simsbury, CT, before matriculating at Vassar. Sheila was accompanied for much of her journey by three companions. One, her husband, John C. Voss, an investment banker whom she met in Cairo in 1977. Two, her son Tobias, born in 1985, now in Dubai. And third: a tennis racquet. Armed with an explosive and

intimidating forehand, she played whenever and wherever she could, winning tournaments at The Queen's Club in London and the Vicmead Hunt Club in Centreville, Delaware and rising at early hours to play in mixed doubles games under New York bubbles. However stressful her job, she found a ready outlet for her emotions in the poor soul in her line of fire across the net.

Sheila also leaves two sisters with whom she had a warm relationship: Marjorie Lallemand of Paris, and Elizabeth Semple of New York.



Introduction

The Officiant the addresses the congregation, acknowledging briefly the purpose of their gathering.

WE HAVE COME here today to remember before God our sister Sheila, to give thanks for her life; to commend her to God our merciful redeemer and judge; and to comfort one another in our grief.

Please be seated.

Tributes

Layla Diba
Susan Arensberg

Solo

Ave Maria
Vivian Holfeld, *soprano*

Franz Schubert

Tributes

Elizabeth Randolph Pulling
William Phillips Bickley

Hymn

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty, The King Of Creation

Please stand, as able; sung by all.

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
 join the great throng,
 psaltery, organ, and song,
sounding in glad adoration.
- 2 Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.
 Hast thou not seen
 how all thou needest hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
 ponder anew
 what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
 Let the amen
 sound from his people again;
gladly for ever adore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.
Music: *Lobe den Herren*, melody from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665;
harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863.

Please remain standing, as able.

Collect For the Dead

The Officiant says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

All pray in silence for a space.

O GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, we remember before you this day our sister Sheila. We thank you for giving her to us, her family and friends, to know and to love as a companion 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. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Lesson – Wisdom 3.1-5, 9

Read by Margaretta Starrett Brokaw

The Lector first says

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom.

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.

After the Lesson, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
“Go back, O child of earth.”
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
- 11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?
- 12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

A period of silence is kept.

Reflection

John Voss

A period of silence is kept.

Gradual Hymn

O God, Our Help In Ages Past

Please stand, as able; sung by all

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:
- 2 under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90.
Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.;
harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

Please be seated.

Gospel Reading – John 10.11-16

Read by Samuel McGill Gawthrop Jr

The Lector first

A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

JESUS SAID, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches

them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

After the Lesson, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Homily

The Rev'd Dr Kirtley Yearwood SR

A period of silent reflection is kept.

Please stand, as able.

The Apostles' Creed

The Officiant introduces the Creed with these words

I N THE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

Officiant and People

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.**

Please remain standing, as able.

The Lord's Prayer

The Officiant says

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Officiant and People

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 *Please remain standing as able.*

The Officiant bids the Intercessions

FOR OUR SISTER SHEILA, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Silence

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life;
give to our sister eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit;
give her fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

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

Silence is kept.

The Officiant concludes with the following prayer

FATHER OF ALL, we pray to you for Sheila, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

THE COMMENDATION

The Officiant takes his place at the Paschal Candle.

GIVE REST, O CHRIST, to your servant with you saints,
**where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so you ordained when you created us, 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.

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

Solo

Come Home

Craig Courtney

Vivian Holfeld, soprano

Then the Officiant says

INTO YOUR HANDS, O MERCIFUL SAVIOR, we commend your servant Sheila. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

O LORD, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your great mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Then the Officiant blesses the people

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 eternal 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.**

Recessional Hymn

And Did Those Feet In Ancient Time

Jerusalem

Please remain standing, as able; sung by all

- 1 And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark satanic mills?
- 2 Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

Words: William Blake (1757-1827)

Music: *Jerusalem*, C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

Organ Postlude

Postlude On Jerusalem

Charles Callahan



Liturgical Participants

Fr Kirtley Yearwood SR – Presider

Steven Severin – Organist

Vivian Holfeld – Soloist

Michael Sayre – Acolyte

Robbie Smith – Audiovisual



DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL

Death is nothing at all
I have only slipped away into the next room
I am I and you are you
Whatever we were to each other
That we are still
Call me by my old familiar name
Speak to me in the easy way you always used
Put no difference into your tone
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow
Laugh as we always laughed
At the little jokes we always enjoyed together
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was
Let it be spoken without effort
Without the ghost of a shadow in it
Life means all that it ever meant
It is the same as it ever was
There is absolute unbroken continuity
What is death but a negligible accident?
Why should I be out of mind
Because I am out of sight?
I am waiting for you for an interval
Somewhere very near
Just around the corner
All is well.
Nothing is past; nothing is lost
One brief moment and all will be as it was before
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

Canon Henry Scott-Holland, 1847-1918



Trinity Episcopal Parish

1108 N Adams Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: 302-652-8605

Email: office@trinityparishde.org

Website: trinityoldswedes.church

Clergy

The Right Reverend Kevin S. Brown — XI Bishop Diocesan

The Reverend Dr. Kirtley Yearwood SR—Interim Rector

The Reverend Dr. Marta Illueca—Associate Rector

Staff

David Simmons – Director of Music

Aniela Meinhardt – Office Manager

Bob Kahn – Maintenance Manager

Alyse Calder – Sunday School Coordinator

Jordan Pecou – Sexton

John Zajaczkowski – Sexton

Claudia Zamudio – Sunday School Assistant

Dulce Tlaseca-Zúñiga – Sunday School Assistant

Vestry

Elizabeth Hukill (Senior Warden), Kimberly Denhardt (Junior Warden)

Brenda Demanczyk, Robert Emeritz (Secretary), James Maxwell – 2026 Class

Steven Dooley, Janet Gordon, Ray Stiles – 2027 Class

Alberto Martinez, Juan Rodriguez, Isabel Zúñiga Sandoval – 2028 Class

Ann Hamilton (Treasurer)

Kathryn Jakabcin, Esq. (Chancellor)