

Jane Thornton Funeral Service ~ December 30, 2009 ~ A homily preached by The Rev'd Erl G. Purnell at Old St. Andrew's Church, Bloomfield, CT

Lamentations 3.22-27, 31-33; Psalm 23; John 6.37-40

Lovely. Lovely is the word that first comes to mind when I think of Jane Thornton. A giggling girl in Hartford, a student at Oxford School in West Hartford, the young beauty Dave married and eventually brought to Bloomfield. What a catch!

The only request Jane had regarding her funeral was that the classic song *More*, from the 1960s movie "Mondo Cane," be sung. You just heard it. So lovely.

*"More than the greatest love the world has known,
This is the love I give to you alone..."*

Her Dave was the love of her life. Such a blessed marriage. Sixty-three years! Whether at home on Duncaster Road, on *Daddy Boy*, or in a restaurant for dinner, Dave and Jane took their love with them. And in recent years, Jane's Dave has been so extraordinarily steadfast in caring for her. It's not been an easy time for either Jane or Dave.

One of the great sadness's in the death of a loved one is that we no longer see the person we love. Yet, as the *Prayer Book* says, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, we await a most special reunion with those we love. "I am resurrection and I am Life," says the Lord. Yes. We can be comforted by that hope of everlasting life, for, to the faithful, in death, life is changed, not ended.

But, none of these words makes losing Jane any easier. We miss her. We want her to be with us in health and good spirit, like she used to be. We want to see her in the garden, playing with her beloved Hobie, caring for the horses, swimming in the pool. Wonderful memories.

We gather this morning, though, to say good bye, for now, to our lovely Janie, Hilda, Maud, Schnid, A.J., Nanny, Pinã Pips, or even Little Girl. She has finally found the peace she's yearned for these past few years. All is now well. Blessings dear Jane and Godspeed. Godspeed.

Amen.