

THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER A.D. 2005

HUGH EUSTIS PAINE, JR 1930 – 2005  
*REQUIESCAT IN PACE*

What can I say? What is there *to* say? What is there to say to sons who have lost their father? To a dear woman who has been by Hugh Paine's side through not only the joys, but the sorrows of a rich, rich life? To a sister who has lost her brother? To cousins, nephews, nieces, friends who are new and friends from childhood gathered here and absent from us who wish more than anything else at this moment that this man whom we love could be with us as he was at his best; could be with us as we want him to be; could be with us as he was created to be. What can I say to *YOU*?

We have heard from his sons, Andrew and Bill, of the many, varied, and life-filled mansions and rooms in which Hugh Eustis Paine, Jr lived his earthly life – mansions and rooms in which we, all of us who were blessed to share even an evening of time with him, were honored to share even a slice of that life with him. On 69<sup>th</sup> Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Forest Hills, New Haven, Concord, Willsboro. However it is not my job as a preacher to recount, imperfectly, the life Hugh Paine has lived thus far, but rather it is to me to point to the life he lives both now and ever more in that House NOT made with hands, eternal in the heavens in the nearer presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

In just a few short minutes we will commend the soul of Hugh Paine to eternity and at a later time some of us will gather in the North Country of New York to commit his mortal remains to the earth whence they came. What I have to say to you today; What I have to say to each of you – to each of *us* – who knew and loved.....who *know* and *love* Hugh Paine springs from the essential and most basic tenet of the Christian Faith. **THIS**.....is not Hugh Paine. **This**.....is *not* Hugh Paine. The Women came to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning, to complete our Lord's burial and were greeted instead by an empty tomb and an Angel who asked of them, "Why seek ye the living amongst the dead? He is risen. He lives." And so I say to you, HUGH PAINE LIVES.

He lives in the memories of all who know him. He lives in the hearts of all who love him. And in a VERY real -- the MOST real way.....Hugh Paine lives because that which IS Hugh Paine....That which WAS Hugh Paine before he was born.....That which WAS Hugh Paine at his best in this world and at his lowest points.....That which was and IS at his very core CAN NEVER DIE. Call it what you will: essence, spirit, soul.....that which IS a human being more than any mortal frame which ever fades can possibly be.....that which others see in you.....that which *you* see BEHIND the eyes in the mirror each morning.....that which binds us all together, one to the other, and the living to the dead in a way intangible, but nonetheless real and palpable. **THAT WHICH WAS and IS and Ever shall be you and me and particularly this day THAT WHICH IS HUGH EUSTIS PAINE can never, never, never die.**

Belief in the eternal is not rational. It is not based on intellect and it is, for many of us – for all of us at points in our lives – elusive. Even completely absent. And yet we KNOW. We know we are not alone. We KNOW, there is more to the world and to the universe than the extent of our intellect. We KNOW this because we FEEL it. We feel it because WE – are not alone. Within each of us dwells not only our spirit, but the spirit of God who created us; God who redeemed us; God who sustains us even when life seems unsustainable.

And so I say, with our Lord in today's gospel, "Let not your hearts be troubled." We are here today, yes, to mourn the loss of one we knew and one we loved. But we are also here to celebrate the life – the life lived and still being lived (in an even more real way) of one we KNOW and LOVE. In the words of the Prayer Book, "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. 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 the one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn." The liturgy is also an expression of our belief that nothing can separate us from each other in Christ. We still love, care and pray for those who have died, and we believe they still love, care, and pray for us."

HUGH PAINE LIVES.

✠In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

THE REVEREND IAN BRUCE MONTGOMERY