

Ruth Beman Funeral ~ February 4, 2012 ~ A homily preached by The Rev'd Erl G. Purnell at Old St. Andrew's Church, Bloomfield, CT

Lamentations 3.22-26, 31-33; Psalm 23 (KJV); 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4.16-5.1, 5-7; Luke 12.22-31

It might be fair to say that Ruth Beman sang her way through life. Sometimes the songs were popular numbers, sometimes church hymns, and even in recent times, tunes a bit on the bawdy side. But always, she seemed to interpret her experience of the world through the voice of song. There's something so pleasing about that trait in Ruth. How can we not be joy-filled too when in the presence of a person singing her way along?

When Ruth came to OSA with Susie, they always sat right over there. They were two peas in a pod. I must say, I've missed Ruth as much as I've missed Susie these last 10 years or so. I'm pleased that we can celebrate her life here today.

A life-long Episcopalian, Ruth and Leonard were married at Trinity Church, Sigourney Street and when Leonard died in 1997, they had been together for 55 years. Some of Ruth's time was spent raising their three children, some working at Cigna, and some kicking back in Puerto Rico where she could count on perfect weather for half the year.

But a lot changed for Ruth in the last decade. She drifted into that nether world of dementia. I'm quickly reminded to repeat what Justin just read: "Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day...for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."

Ruth's inner being—her Soul center—was always intact. Blessings & Peace to you Ruth Beman. Godspeed. Godspeed.

*Amen.*

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