

**A Service of Thanksgiving  
for the Life of  
The Honorable James Stephen Buis**

**October 22, 1944 – August 29, 2024**



**Wednesday, September 4, 2024  
11:00 a.m.**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia**



# The Burial of the Dead

*In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer,  
please observe silence upon entering the nave.*

## Prelude

### Opening Anthems

*Please stand.*

I am the resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord;  
He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;  
And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,  
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;  
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;  
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,  
and not a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,  
and no man dieth to himself.  
For if we live, we live unto the Lord.  
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.  
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;  
Even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

**Hymn 287** For all the saints

*Sine Nomine*

### The Collect

**Officiant** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Officiant** Let us pray.

*A period of silence is kept.*

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Steve. We thank you for giving him to us, his 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.**

### Words of Remembrance

Laura Griffin  
Evelyn Poppell  
Bill Hoofnagle

**The First Reading** Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

*Please sit.*

Hamill Jones

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

*Following the reading, the reader says*  
The Word of the Lord.  
**People Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23** *King James Version*

*Read in unison.*

**The LORD is my shepherd; \***  
**I shall not want.**  
**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; \***  
**he leadeth me beside the still waters.**  
**He restoreth my soul; \***  
**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.**  
**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**  
**I will fear no evil; \***  
**for thou art with me;**  
**thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**  
**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; \***  
**thou anointest my head with oil;**  
**my cup runneth over.**  
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \***  
**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

**The Second Reading** Revelation 21:2-7

Ashley Tunner

And I saw the holy city, the 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,  
'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

*Following the reading, the reader says*  
The Word of the Lord.  
**People Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 671** Amazing grace!

*New Britain*

## The Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:28-30

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

*Following the reading, the reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

## The Homily

The Rev. John Rohrs

## The Apostles' Creed

*Please stand.*

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

**All** **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.**

## The Prayers of the People

*You may stand or kneel.*

Prayer Book, page 480

**Leader** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love. **Amen.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Amen.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grant us grace to entrust Steve to your never-failing love; receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people. **Amen.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all your saints, to receive the crown of life which you promise to all who share in the victory of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

### **The Commendation**

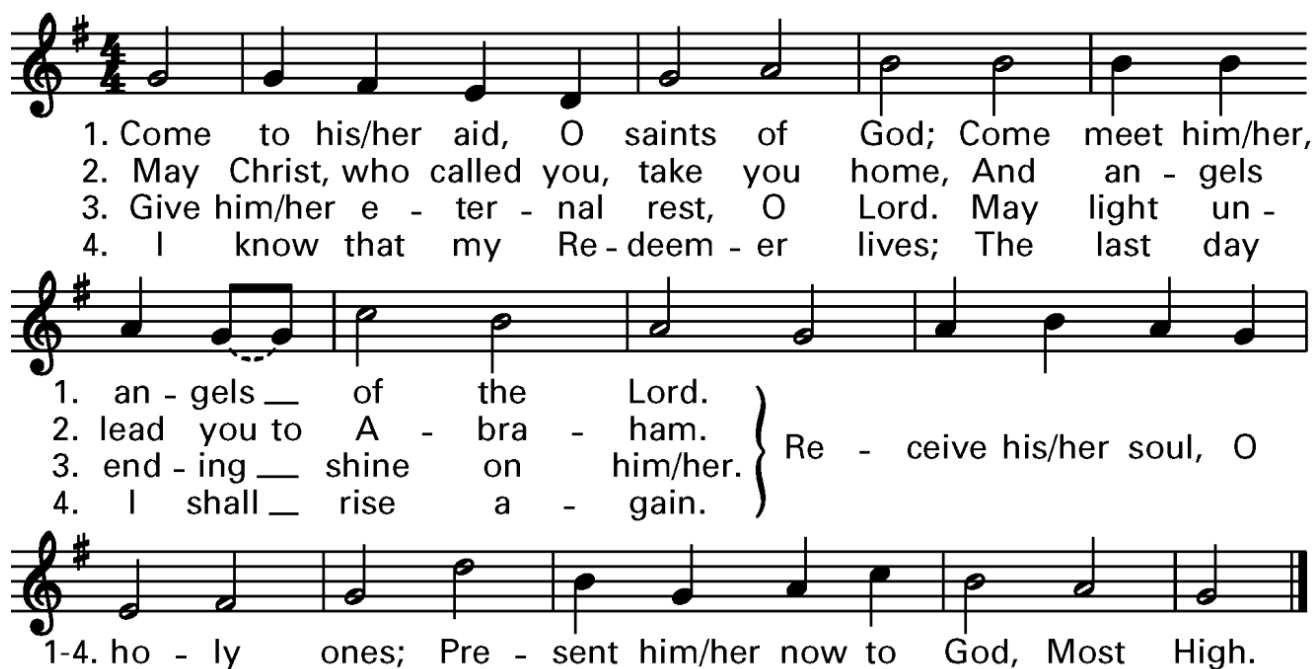
Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
**where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

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.

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

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Steve. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**



1. Come to his/her aid, O saints of God; Come meet him/her,  
 2. May Christ, who called you, take you home, And an - gels  
 3. Give him/her e - ter - nal rest, O Lord. May light un -  
 4. I know that my Re - deem - er lives; The last day

1. an - gels \_ of the Lord.  
 2. lead you to A - bra - ham.  
 3. end - ing \_ shine on him/her. } Re - ceive his/her soul, O  
 4. I shall \_ rise a - gain.

1-4. ho - ly ones; Pre - sent him/her now to God, Most High.

Dismissal

Postlude

Please join the family for a reception at the Country Club of Virginia (Westhampton) immediately after the service.



**Officiants:** The Rev. John Rohrs and the Rev. John Jenkins

**Readers:** Hamill Jones and Ashley Tunner

**Crucifer:** Scott Finn

**Organist:** Brent te Velde



“Song of Myself, 6,” from *Leaves of Grass*  
by Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

What do you think has become of the young and old men?  
And what do you think has become of the women and children?

They are alive and well somewhere,  
The smallest sprout shows there is really no death,  
And if ever there was it led forward life, and does not wait at the end to arrest it,  
And ceased the moment life appeared.

All goes onward and outward, nothing collapses,  
And to die is different from what any one supposed, and luckier.