

**A Service of Thanksgiving**

**for the Life of**

**William Hewlett Stith, Jr.**

**April 3, 1938 – December 16, 2024**



**Friday, January 10, 2025  
2:00 p.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 as you are able.*

The Book of Common Prayer, page 491

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.

Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though he die.

And everyone who has life,  
and has committed himself to me in faith,  
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.

After my awaking, he will raise me up;  
and in my body I shall see God.

I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him  
Who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he dies.

For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.

So, then, whether we live or die,  
We are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on  
are those who die in the Lord.

So it is, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labors.

**Hymn 287** For all the saints, verses 1-4

*Sung by all.*

*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, Hew. 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.**

#### Remembrances

Clissa England, Betty Booker Morriss

**The First Reading** **Romans 8: 14-19, 34-35, 37-39** *Please sit.*

*Following the reading, the reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46 *Said in unison.*

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \*  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 27 *Said in unison.*

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, \*  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

- 10 Harken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;  
cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living!
- 18 O tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the LORD.

The Second Reading

John 14: 1-6

Following the reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Go, my children, with my blessing

Sung by all, standing.

*Ar hyd y nos*



1. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone;  
2. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure,  
3. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;



wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own;  
here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure;  
grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



in my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,  
here you heard my Son's dear sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry,  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you;



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

*Panis angelicus*

César Franck

**The Apostles' Creed***Please stand, as you are able.**Officiant* In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

**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, dead, and buried.  
 He descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated on 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 Lord's Prayer**

**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 of the People**

Prayer Book, page 497

*Leader* For our brother, Hew, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said,  
 "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

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

*All* **Hear us, Lord.**

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

*All* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Leader* You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*All* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Leader* You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*All* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Leader* Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship  
 with all your saints.

*All* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Leader* He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your  
 heavenly kingdom.

*All* **Hear us, Lord.**

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

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Leader** Father of all, we pray to you for Hew, 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**

**Officiant** Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

**People** **where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

**Officiant** 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.

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

**Officiant** Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Hew. 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** Paraphrase of Henri Frederic Amiel

**Officiant** Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

**Officiant** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

It is well with my soul

*Sung by all.**Ville du Havre*

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought! My  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil-lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re - sound, and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend, e - ven so, it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

**Postlude**

*The committal will follow in the Garden of the Holy Spirit.  
 Please follow the procession from the Grove Avenue door.*

*Please join us for a reception in the Large Fellowship Hall  
 immediately after the service.*

**The Committal**

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;  
 I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.  
 He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead  
 will also give new life to our mortal bodies  
 through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
 my body also shall rest in hope.  
 You will show me the path of life;  
 in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
 and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Hew, and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

**And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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.**

### **The Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Meditations Before Kaddish**

When I die give what's left of me away  
to children and old men that wait to die.  
And if you need to cry,  
cry for your brother walking the street beside you.  
And when you need me, put your arms around anyone  
and give them what you need to give me.

I want to leave you something,  
something better than words or sounds.  
Look for me in the people I've known or loved,  
and if you cannot give me away,  
at least let me live in your eyes and not your mind.

You can love me best by letting hands touch hands,  
and by letting go of children that need to be free.  
Love doesn't die, people do.  
So, when all that's left of me is love,  
give me away.

### **Participants**

**Officiants:** The Rev. John Jenkins, The Rev. William L. Sachs

**Remembrances:** Clissa England, Betty Booker Morriss

**Musicians:** Chris Crowley, *tenor*; Allen Finch, *flugelhorn*; Anastasia Jellison, *harp*; Brent te Velde, *organ*

**Crucifer:** Barbara Massey

**Assistant:** Earl Roney

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