

A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Millard Stephen Younts

May 9, 1950 – March 9, 2025



April 7, 2025
10:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia

The Burial of the Dead

Greetings and welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal 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. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Thus, the color for the altar hangings and vestments is white, the color of Easter and celebration of new life

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian or unacknowledged. 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. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who bear the grief and pain of mourning.

In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, please observe silence upon entering the worship space and ensure that electronic devices have been silenced.

*All hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982, the **blue book** in your pew rack.*

Prelude

Opening Anthem

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.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother, Mitt. 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.**

Remembrance

Please sit.

Carter Younts

The First Reading Isaiah 55:12-13

Read by Frank Bazzel

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Following each reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalms 61

Read responsively, by whole verse.

Led by George Calvert

- 1 Hear my cry, O God,
and listen to my prayer.
- 2 **I call upon you from the ends of the earth
with heaviness in my heart;
set me upon the rock that is higher than I.**
- 3 For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the enemy.
- 4 **I will dwell in your house for ever;
I will take refuge under the cover of your wings.**
- 5 For you, O God, have heard my vows;
you have granted me the heritage of those
who fear your Name.
- 6 **Add length of days to the king's life;
let his years extend over many generations.**
- 7 Let him sit enthroned before God for ever; *
bid love and faithfulness watch over him.
- 8 **So will I always sing the praise of your Name,
and day by day I will fulfill my vows.**

Homily

The Rev. William S. Stanley

The Apostles' Creed

Please stand, as you are able.

Celebrant 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 Prayers of the People

Leader For our brother Mitt, 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 Mitt, 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

Officiant Father of all, we pray to you for Mitt, 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. All we 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, Mitt. 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.**

The Blessing

Celebrant The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 657 Love divine, all loves excelling *Sung by all.* *Hyfrydol*

Postlude

Following the service, all are invited to a reception at the Country Club of Virginia (Westhampton). The family will meet you there.

Participants

Clergy: The Rev. William S. Stanley, the Rev. John D. Rohrs

Crucifer: Barbara Massey

Readers: Frank Bazzel, George Calvert

Remembrance: Carter Younts

Organist: Diana Chou

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