

**A Service of Thanksgiving  
for the Life of  
Robert Avery Peay, Jr.**

**May 16, 2010 – May 9, 2026**



**Friday, May 15, 2026  
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 Music

## Words of Welcome

## Final Prelude Piece *Jerusalem*

C.H.H. Parry

## Opening Anthems

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.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Even so, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

## Hymn 293 I sing a song of the saints of God *Sung by all.*

*Grand Isle*

1 I sing a song of the saints of God,  
2 They loved their Lord so dear, and  
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are  
pa - tient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and  
his love made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for  
hundreds of thousands still, the world is bright with the  
lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And  
Je - sus' sake, the whole of their good lives long. And  
joy - ous saints who love to do Je - sus' will. You can  
one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -  
one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was slain  
meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,

herd - ess on the green: they were all of them saints of  
 by a fierce wild beast; and there's not an - y rea - son -  
 or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of — God are just  
  
 God— and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.  
 no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.  
 folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

**The Collect**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*A period of silence is kept.*

Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to entrust Avery to your never failing love. Comfort us as we bear the pain of his death, and reunite us in your good time in your Paradise; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Words of Remembrance**

*Please be seated.*

Robert Avery Peay

**Hymn 671** Amazing grace!

*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

*New Britain*

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 \*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright  
  
 1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me  
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to  
  
 1 now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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.

Scripture Reading John 14:1-6

read by James Driscoll

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’

Following the reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 178

Alleluia, alleluia

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

Alleluia No. 1

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) in a key of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. It consists of four systems of music. The first system is a *Descant* with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -". The second system is the *Refrain* with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the". The third system continues the refrain with the lyrics "lu - ia, al - le - lu - ial" and "ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ial Give". The fourth system is a *Final Ending* with the lyrics "Praise to his Name. Name." and "Praise to his Name. Name.".

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.  
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.  
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.  
 Now we shall live for ev - er. Al - le -  
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

*Repeat Refrain*

The Homily

The Rev. John D. Rohrs

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,

*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**            *Remain standing as you are able.*

*Officiant*        The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant*        Let us pray.

**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**

*Leader*            In the peace of God, let us pray, responding with the words, "Lord, have mercy."

In the assurance of your mercy, in thanksgiving for the life of your child, Avery, and in confident expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we pray:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remember Avery's parents, Elizabeth and Robbie. Help them to hold each other in their hearts, that this sorrow may draw them together in love, we pray:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remember Avery's brother, Gordon, and his sister, Emma, that they may be enfolded in love, comforted in fear, honored in their grief, and kept safe, we pray:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remember all the family and friends of Avery, that they may know the consolation of your love, and may hold Avery in their hearts all the days of their lives, we pray:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Teach us to be patient and gentle with ourselves and each other as we grieve, we pray:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help us to know and to believe that we will be reunited at your heavenly banquet, we pray:

**Lord, have mercy.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

5 Lift up your voi - - ces, Let us pledge our loy - al - ty,  
 To St. Chris - to - pher's for - ev - - er, Hail, all hail to thee.

9 *Verse 1*

13 When we see the tall pines sway - ing, call - ing to the sky,  
 Gath - er all her loy - al sons \_\_\_\_\_ Sing her \_\_\_\_\_ prais - es high. *(to refrain)*

17 *Verse 2*

21 Cheer then the val - - ient spi - rit of the red and gray,  
 25 Let us raise a song to praise her name and fame to - day.  
 29 As the even - ing shad - ows length - en and the west - ern sun  
 Falls a - bove the play - ing fields on one more \_ tri - umph won. *(to refrain)*

### 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.**

Avery, our companion in faith and fellow child of Christ, we entrust you to God. Go forth from this world in the love of God who created you, in the mercy of Jesus who died for you, in the power of the Holy Spirit who receives and protects you. May you rest in peace and rise in glory, where pain and grief are banished, and life and joy are yours forever. **Amen.**

### The Blessing

Go forth from this place and be kind. Everyone here, in one way or another, carries something heavy. So love mercy, practice forgiveness, and be gentle with yourself. And show God's unconditional love and acceptance to yourself, and to everyone you meet. And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, those you love, and all those God calls you to love, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

# The Dismissal

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Hymn 473** Lift high the cross *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

*Crucifer*

*Descant*  
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

*Refrain*  
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred Name.

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred Name.

Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,  
Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied  
O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Repeat Refrain*  
the hosts of God in con - quering ranks com - bine.  
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

## Postlude

Please join the family for a reception at the Country Club of Virginia, Westhampton, immediately following the service. As you are able, please walk to the reception; crossing guards will assist you.



**Officiants:** The Rev. Judy Webb Davis, the Rev. William S. Stanley; **Homilist:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **Assisting Clergy:** The Rev. Amelia Arthur, St. Catherine's School; the Rev. Steve McGehee, St. Christopher's School; the Rev. William L. Sachs; **Words of Remembrance:** Robert Avery Peay; **Reader:** James Driscoll; **Crucifer:** Barbara Massey; **Organist:** Robert McCormick; **Pallbearers:** Gibson Beck, Hunter Collier, Austin Kapinos, Turner Klim, George Jones, William Logue, Murray Mathews, Langdon Sexton



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