

**A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Justin Anthony Jones Nickerson I**

October 20, 2000 – September 16, 2026



**Thursday, October 1, 2026
2:00 p.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 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 possession.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord!
Even so, 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.
 A period of silence is kept.

Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to entrust Justin 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.**

The First Reading Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 *Please sit.*

Following each reading, the reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (*King James Version*)

Read responsively by whole verse.

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 1 John 3:1-2

Hymn 669 Commit thou all that grieves thee *Sung by all, standing*

Herzlich tut mich verlangen

The Gospel John 6:37-40 *Remain standing.*

All standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Cate Anthony

The Prayers of the People *Please stand.*

The Book of Common Prayer, page 497

Leader For our brother Justin, 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 Justin,
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.

Celebrant Father of all, we pray to you for Justin, 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 Peace

Prayer Book, page 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Music at the Offertory Intermezzo from Sonata No. 3, Opus 88

Josef Rheinberger

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Prayer Book, page 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

All **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country, where with Blessed Stephen, Blessed Mary, Mother of God and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

**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 Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament. When you are given the consecrated bread, you may consume it and then drink the wine from the first or larger chalice. If you wish, you may "intinct" or touch the tip of your bread to the wine. For this, a smaller cup will be available just beyond the chalice. You may also choose to receive Communion in only one kind. Either the bread or the wine alone is a full Communion. We also offer gluten-free wafers. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister.

After Communion*Celebrant* Let us pray.*Please stand.*

All **Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love
you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink
of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ,
and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet.
Grant that this Sacrament may be to us
a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance
in that kingdom where there is no death,
neither sorrow nor crying,
but the fullness of joy with all your saints;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Hymn 671 Amazing grace!*Sung by all.**New Britain***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.**

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

The committal will follow in the Garden of the Holy Spirit. Please follow the family in procession from the Good Shepherd Chapel door.

The Committal

Opening Anthems

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.

Committal Prayer

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Justin; and we commit his mortal remains 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 unto him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:
People **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**
Celebrant May his soul, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

Closing Prayer

All O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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

In lieu of flowers, the family invites your donations to RVA Community Fridges.



Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. William S. Stanley
Deacon & Homilist: The Rev. Cate Anthony
Musician: Diana Chou



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