



Memorial Worship

Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025

Keepsake



ORDER OF WORSHIP

All Generations Forever and Ever

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Stephen Handy

+ You're invited to stand in body or in spirit. | **Bold** words are spoken responsively.

ENTRANCE

VOLUNTARY

"Come Sunday"

Duke Ellington

+ GREETING

We gather with hearts tuned to the sacred as we give thanks for the lives of those who have shaped us. In our worship, let us trust God, remain faithful, and endure in love across the generations.

CHIMING THE HOUR

+HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" BEECHER

UMH #384

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's mercy is deeper than the ocean; God's grace wider than the skies.

People: We come, remembering those who have gone before us, and trusting in God's goodness.

Leader: What we cannot see, God reveals in love. What we cannot dream, God brings to life.

People: Even in our sorrow, we come to be renewed by hope and held in God's peace.

Leader: Now to the One who calls us into boundless possibility—

All: Be all glory and honor, in every generation, in every memory, and in every heart. Amen.

+OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you are the one who saves. You are the one who comforts, supports, and provides us with the peace that passes understanding. As we gather today to celebrate the lives of those who have stepped into Your Church Eternal, we are grateful for the assurance we have that they stand in your presence, their journey is complete, and they worship with the Heavenly Host. May the blessings of their lives continue to inspire us to run our own races to completion through the powerful name of our Savior Jesus, who is even now at work providing for us all we could ever ask or imagine. **Amen.**

+AFFIRMATION

Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39 UMH #887

Rev. Camille W. Bradley

OF FAITH

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

People: No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

+GLORIA PATRI

"Glory Be to the Father" MEINEKE

UMH #70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE

"You Can't Beat God Giving"

Doris Akers

Soloist: Rev. Linda Furtado, Soprano

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Mark Matheny

Loving God, as Your Word is read and preached today, we seek divine illumination in understanding. We invite the Holy Spirit to guide us and open our hearts to receive the message we need to love and serve you with whole hearts. We ask you to remove any barrier that hinders our understanding, that you grant us clarity and wisdom as we seek to know your will. We surrender ourselves into your hands and embrace the promise that you are always ready to do more in us, for us and through us than we can ever ask or imagine. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

+SCRIPTURE READING

I Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18 (NIV)

Rev. Dr. Ben Boone

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Grieving with Hope"

Rev. Marie C. King

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

+ HYMN

"Hymn of Promise" PROMISE

UMH #707

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

Rev. Amanda Westmoreland, Presiding

Today we will receive Holy Communion by intinction or dipping the bread into the cup. There will be communion stations at the end of nearly every aisle. Please come forward as you are ready; ushers will not direct the flow, but may assist if needed. You will be offered a piece of bread. Dip it gently into the cup and partake. Stations for special needs, including gluten-free bread and alternative serving methods, are clearly marked and available. Those unable to come forward may be served at their seat; please alert a nearby usher. All who seek to follow Christ, regardless of age or church membership, are welcome at the table.

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
across all generations—past and present—joining the saints
whose witness endures forever and ever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will,
We have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,
We have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love towards us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God! Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (almighty God),
Creator of heaven and earth:
God of Abraham and Sarah,
God of Miriam and Moses,
God of Joshua and Deborah,
God of Ruth and David,
God of the priests and the prophets,
God of Mary and Joseph,
God of the apostles and the martyrs,
God of our mothers and our fathers,
God of our children to all generations.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death,
and resurrection you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with all your saints,
since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

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, forever.
Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

GIVING OF THE BREAD & CUP

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY
"In Remembrance of Me"

UMH #626
TFWS #2254

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"It Is Well with My Soul"

Horatio Spafford

Rev. Cynthia Gray, Violin

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In this time of celebration for the lives of those who now join the encouragement of the great cloud of witnesses, we come before You with hearts filled with both gratitude and sorrow as we remember those who have died. We are grateful for the gift of their lives, for the love and memories they have left behind. We thank You for the impact they had on our lives, the joy they brought, and the lessons they taught us.

As grateful as we are, we also acknowledge the pain of their absence. We pray for comfort and healing for those who mourn their loss. May Your presence be comfort and strength to grieving hearts. Help us to find peace in knowing that they are now in Your loving arms.

Lord, we give thanks for the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. We are grateful for the hope we have in Him, that one day we will be reunited with our loved ones who have gone before us. In this time of remembrance, we offer our thanksgiving and praise to You.

To you be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Bishop David Graves

SENDING FORTH

+CLOSING HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

UMH# 117

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

As we go from this sacred space, we carry with us the memory of those we love and the enduring hope we have in Christ. The God of boundless compassion walks with us, even in the valley of grief, offering peace beyond understanding and love beyond measure. Live now in that peace. Share that love freely. Trust that the One who holds the past and the future also holds you— with mercy deeper than the ocean and grace wider than the skies. To God be the glory, in every season, in every life. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on *"O, When the Saints Go Marching In"*

Dr. Ashley K. Davis

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

LEADERSHIP

Resident Bishop
Liturgist

Bishop David Graves
Rev. Dr. Stephen Handy

MUSICIANS

Bassoonist
Organist
Pianist
Percussion
Soloist
Violinist

Rev. Dr. John Purdue
Dr. Ashley K. Davis
Mrs. Cynthia Haley
Mr. Roney Simelton
Rev. Linda Furtado
Rev. Cynthia Gray

Worship Planning Team

Rev. Susan Carrigan
Mrs. Cynthia Haley, Director of Worship and Music
Rev. Linda Furtado
Rev. Dr. Joey Reed
Mr. Tim Wise



Julia Allen



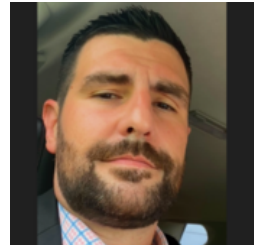
Susan Jo Allsop-Atkinson



Thaddeus Clay Ashby



Margaret Becher



Jason Brann



Patricia J. Calhoun



Betty S. Cloyd



Orrin A. Cowley Sr.



Sherron Cunningham



Shirley Jean Daniels



Richard Cook Denton



Thelma B Felts



James Sullivan Griffith



Paul R Gupton



Calvin Nelson Harrub III



Shirley F Hinson



Beverly Lovell



Phillip Wray McClure



Claire S Meadows



Walter Meadows



Walter E. Mischke Jr.



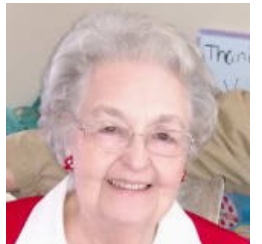
Robert G. Nolen



Billy Ray Panter



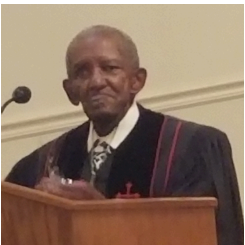
Lee M Parkison



Mary Lou Pugh



Thomas Cecil Rascoe



Jerome Scales Sr.



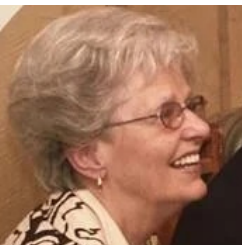
James Sewell



James M. Sutherland



Edward Thomas Vann



Mary Louise Wilson



Pretence Durwood Worley

Not Pictured:
Bettye Jo Masters
Hugh Edwin Moore
Margaret B. Simons