

A Celebration of the Life of
Robert Steven Gaskins

September 8, 1931 – June 8, 2024



Wednesday, July 3, 2024
10:30 a.m.

Saint James Episcopal Church
Essex Junction, Vermont

A Celebration of the Life of
Robert Steven Gaskins
September 8, 1931 – June 8, 2024

Prelude

Opening Anthem

The Book of Common Prayer, 491

All stand, as able. The Presider reads the anthem in procession.

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.

Collect for Burial

Presider The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Presider Let us pray.

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

All are seated.

First Lesson: Lamentations 3:22-26; 31-33

Lector A reading from the Book of Lamentations.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

After the Reading, the Lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

All things bright and beautiful

Hymnal 1982 #405

All stand as able.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a descant and a refrain. The descant is a single melodic line. The refrain is a two-part setting with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

Descant
All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,
Refrain
All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,
all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.
1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
Repeat Refrain
he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky,
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)
Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686;
adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958), desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Psalm 121

Read in unison

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
 from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, *
 the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved *
 and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
 shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Lord himself watches over you; *
 the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
 nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
 it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
 from this time forth for evermore.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:6-5:9

Lector A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

After the Reading, the Lector says

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

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 melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, John Rees (19th cent.) Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919) Copyright ©1974 by Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Gospel: John 10:11-16

All standing as able, the Deacon or Presider reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the

sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

At the end of the Gospel, the Deacon or Presider says

 The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Eulogy

Homily

The Rev. Kim Hardy, Rector
St. James Episcopal Church

The Apostles’ Creed

All stand as able.

Presider In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

Presider and People

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 Lord's Prayer *(Traditional)*

Presider

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

Presider 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.

Prayers of the People

A designated Intercessor leads the prayers. The people respond with the words in italics.

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

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord.

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

Silence may be kept.

Presider

Father of all, we pray to you for Steve, 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

The Presider and other ministers take their places at the cremains

Presider

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

All

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

Presider

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.

Presider and People

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

The Presider, facing the cremains, says

Into your hand, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Steve. 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

The Presider blesses the people

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Dismissal

The Deacon or Presider dismisses the people, saying

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Final Hymn *Joyful, joyful we adore thee* Hymnal 1982 #376

All stand as able. As the ashes are borne from the church, the following hymn is sung.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

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 Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

We walk in procession to the Memorial Garden to bury the ashes. All are welcome to join the family at the Garden.

The Committal

Presider

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.

Then, while earth is cast upon the ashes, the Presider says these words

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Steve, and we commit his ashes 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.*

The Presider says

 The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Presider 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.

Presider

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

People

And let light perpetual shine upon him.

Presider

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

Presider

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 everlasting 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.*

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Presider and Homilist: The Rev. Kim Hardy, Rector
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Dave Ganter
Musician: Michael Hartigan
Minister of Technology: Brian Garland
Lectors: Peter Putre; Anita Beeson
Eulogists: Adam, Heather, Shannon, and Bob Gaskins
Intercessor: Jenny Ogelby
Altar Preparation: Jenny Ogelby
Ushers: Linda Chiasson; Jenny Ogelby

