

# THE ORDER of WORSHIP

Thursday, 07 January, Anno Domini 2021 Two o'clock in the afternoon | Sanctuary

✠ denotes the People standing, in body or spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in **bold**.

Please silence all electronic devices and enter in reverent prayer.



## SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

*Almighty and Everlasting God our Father, who by the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that Your servant, Bill, being raised with Him, may know the strength of His Presence, and rejoice in His eternal glory. Grant this we pray, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## ✠ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: NO. 110

EIN FESTE' BURG

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

## ✠ GREETING (responsively)

**W**e have gathered to remember the life of Bill Phifer, Jr.

**We give thanks for his life,**

**and we commend his spirit into God's eternal care.**

Let us recall all the saints who have found their peace in which Bill now rests.

*(a brief moment of silence follows for reflection)*

Now let us rejoice in God's presence with us, in death as in life, among those who mourn and with those who now see God face to face.

**Our lips will shout for joy, for God's love is over all that**

**He has made. Blessed be His glorious Name forever!**

## ✠ PRAYER (in unison)

**O** Jesus Christ our Risen Lord,  
**You have gone before us in death.**

**Grant us the assurance of Your presence,  
that we who are anxious and fearful  
in the face of death may confidently face the future,  
in the knowledge that You have prepared a place  
for all who love You.**

**Comfort us who mourn;  
and give us grace,  
in the presence of death, to worship You,  
that we may have a sure hope of eternal life  
and put our whole trust in Your goodness and mercy.  
Amen.**

## ✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE

*from John 11.25-26*

Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

## FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 40.28-31*

## PSALMODY (in unison)

*Psalms 23 (AKJV)*

**T**he 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.**

## GRADUAL HYMN: NO. 369

*Blessed Assurance*

## ASSURANCE

## ✠ GOSPEL LESSON

*John 14, selected verses*

**T**his is the Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## HOMILY

PASTORAL PRAYER *concluding with THE LORD'S PRAYER*

**O**ur 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.**

## ✠ DISMISSAL with BLESSING

## ✠ RECESSIONAL HYMN: NO. 117

ST. ANNE

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*



THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE CHANCEL are PRESENTED  
to THE GREATER GLORY of GOD  
in LOVING MEMORY of MR. BILL PHIFER, JR.



## THOSE SERVING in WORSHIP

THE REVEREND DR. MARK CONFORTI

*Senior Pastor*

MR. JOSHUA W. STARNES

*Director of Music & Organist*



## WHAT WE BELIEVE

At the heart of the Christian faith is God's victory over death. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given the gift of life eternal. As Jesus' followers, we are convinced that we share in this victory over the grave. We affirm that at death, the Christian believer lives in the presence of God in an eternal home. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. So, death is not the end; rather, this is the new beginning of a fuller existence that will be completed in the resurrection of the body. This hope is based, not on our worthiness, but exclusively upon God's grace. The large white candle, called the "Paschal Candle," is lit symbolizing God's victory over death, for Bill's sake, and for all of us who gather today.

# WILLIAM JOSEPH “BILL” PHIFER, JR.



William Joseph “Bill” Phifer, Jr., (age 85) formerly of Matthews, North Carolina, went to his heavenly home on Monday, December 28, 2020 after months of declining health. He most recently had been a resident at Brookdale Lexington assisted living community.

Bill was born in Charlotte, the son of the late William Joseph Phifer, Sr. and Mary Berry Phifer Williams. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Gerald Edward Phifer. Bill was a member of the last graduating class of Charlotte Technical High School and a graduate of North Carolina State University where he pursued a mechanical engineering degree. Bill started his career as a design engineer at Duke Energy and was with them for 32 years.

Bill was a member of St. Stephen United Methodist Church where he served on the Administrative Board, the Finance Committee, and the Staff/Parish Committee. He was a member of the chancel choir and the Joy Class. He was a life member of the Charlotte Engineers Club. Bill especially enjoyed meeting with the R.O.M.E.O.’s (Retired Old Men Eating Out) lunch bunch, which met at Queens University Dining Hall. Bill enjoyed gardening, building and flying radio control airplanes, watching Wolfpack sports, and was a classical music enthusiast.

Bill is survived by his wife of 62 years, Grace Crowell Phifer; his son, William J. Phifer, III (Chip) and daughter-in-law, Helen Winston Phifer of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; his daughter Elizabeth Phifer Fazia (Betsy) and son-in-law Dr. Robert Brian Fazia of Salisbury, North Carolina; six grandchildren, Megan Phifer, Will Phifer, and Rachel Phifer of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Amanda Fazia McMillan and husband Corey McMillan of Cary, North Carolina; Grace Fazia of Raleigh, North Carolina; and Wesley Fazia of Knoxville, Tennessee; and three great-granddaughters, Katherine McMillan, Isabelle McMillan, and Parker Grace Fazia.

The family would like to thank the staff at Brookdale Lexington and Hospice of Davidson County for the love and care that they gave to Bill.



A SERVICE *of* WITNESS *to* THE RESURRECTION  
*in* THANKSGIVING *and* CELEBRATION  
*for* THE LIFE *of*

*William Joseph*  
*“Bill” Phifer, Jr.*

NOVEMBER 08, 1935 – DECEMBER 28, 2020



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Power of God.*

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