St. George's Episcopal Church

TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

In Thanksgiving for the Life of

Jeffrey Hou

September 4, 1983 - October 27, 2026

Monday, November 2, 2026
10.30 am

The Prelude

The assembly stands

The Reception of the Body

The Opening Anthem

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.

Remembrances by the Family

Patricia Lee
Lijay Shih

The Opening Acclamation

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

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

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with Leslie, Sam and Lydia, and all who mourn. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The people are seated for the readings.

The First Reading Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Read by Jay Tang

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Psalm 46

Read by Albert Sun

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

The Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

Read by Ruben Carrizales

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us 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 further clothed with our heavenly dwelling, for surely when we have been clothed in it we will not be found naked. For while we are 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. The one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a down payment.

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 be pleasing to him.

After the reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

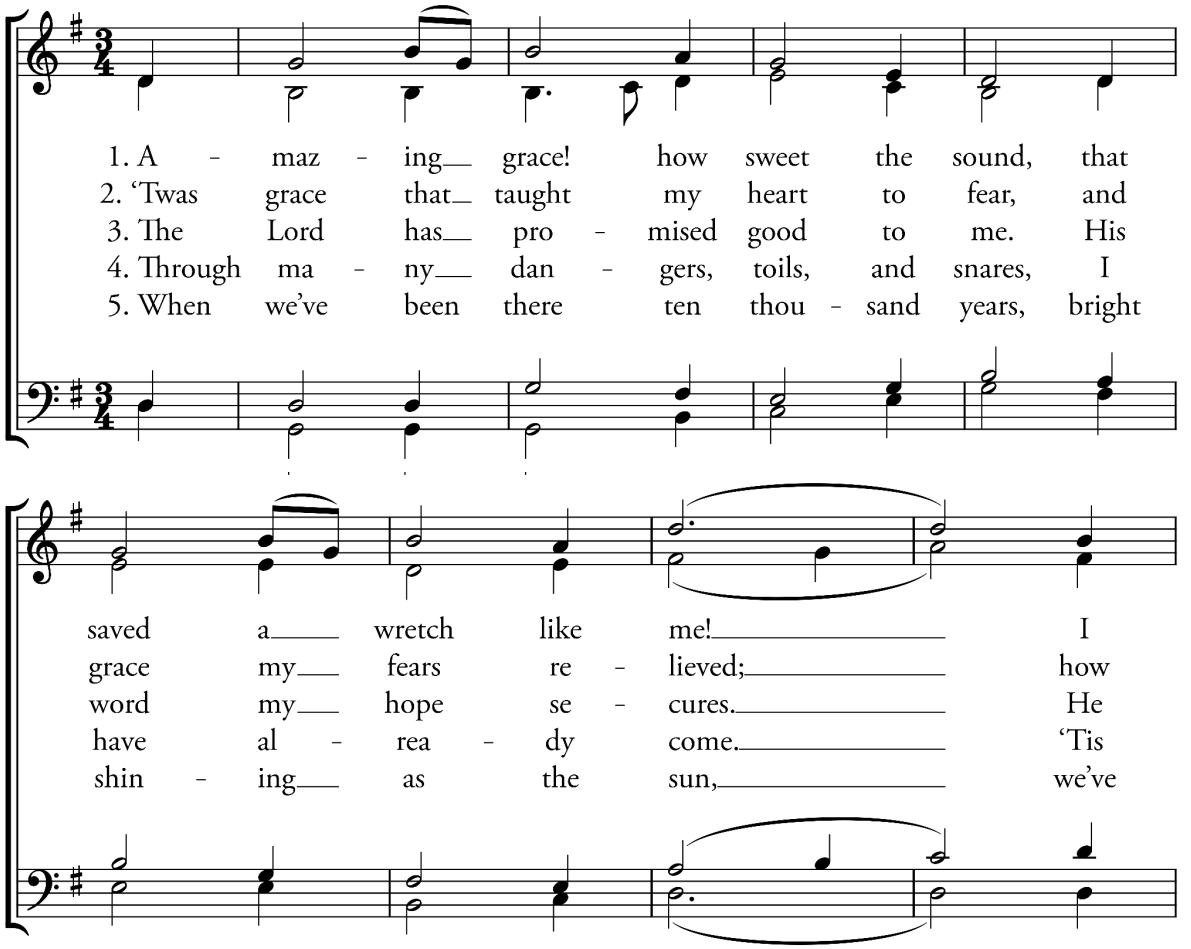
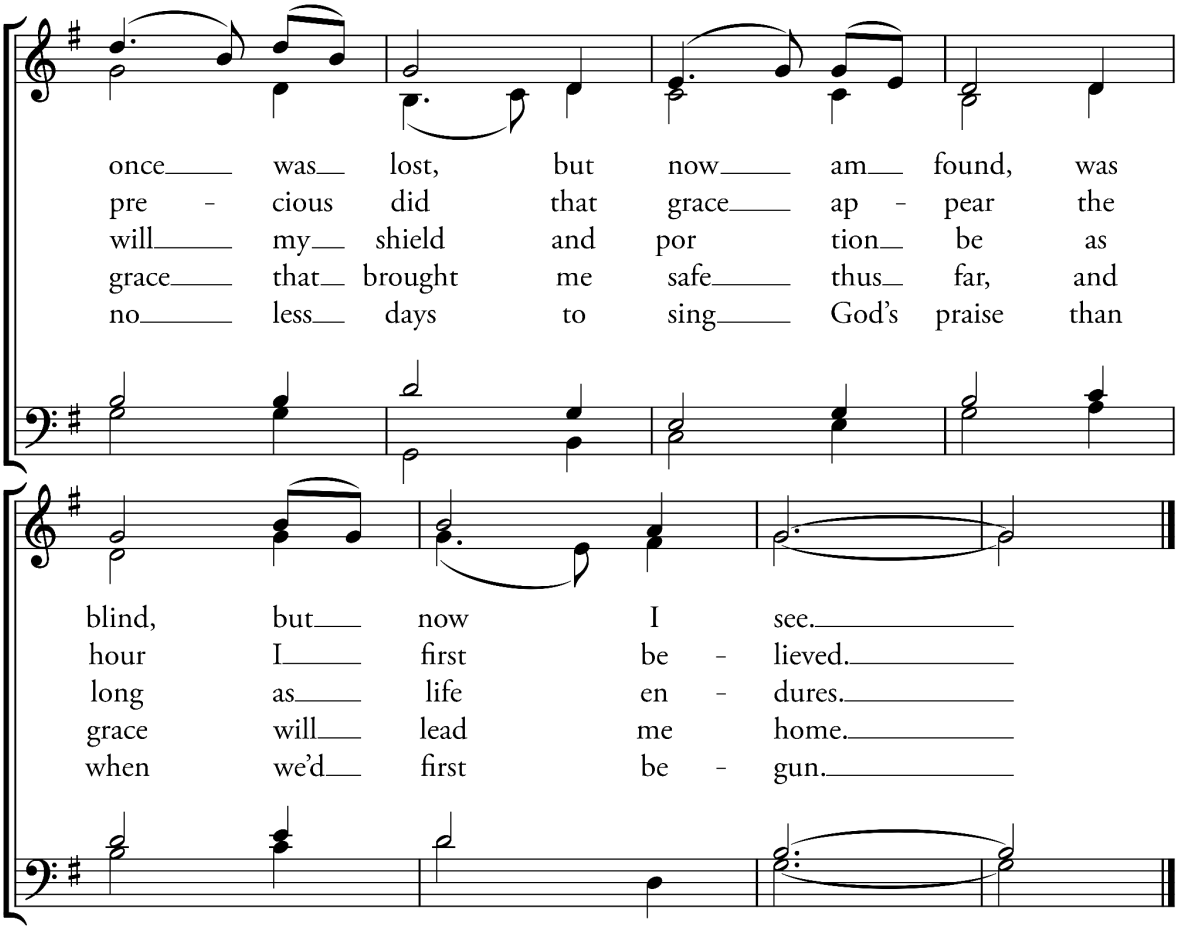
The Psalm Psalm 139:1-12

Read by Charles Floyd

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

The Sequence Hymn

The hymn is sung by all.

Amazing grace NEW BRITAIN


once was lost, but now am found, was
pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the
will my shield and por tion be as
grace that brought me safe thus far, and
no less days to sing God's praise than
blind, but now I see.
hour I first be - lieved.
long as life en - dures.
grace will lead me home.
when we'd first be - gun.

The Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

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

"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.

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

The Homily

The Rev. Susan R. Ironside

Meditation

The meditation is sung by the Choir.

I know who holds tomorrow

arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton (1953-)

1. I don't know about tomorrow.
I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine,
for its skies may turn to gray.
I don't worry o'er the future,
for I know what Jesus said,
And today I'll walk beside him,
for he knows what is ahead.

Refrain:
Many things about tomorrow,
I don't seem to understand,
but I know who holds tomorrow,
and I know who holds my hand.

2. Every step is getting brighter,
as the golden stairs I climb.
Every burden's getting lighter;
every cloud is silver lined.
There the sun is always shining;
there no tear will dim the eye
at the ending of the rainbow,
where the mountains touch the sky. *Refrain*

3. I don't know about tomorrow.
It may bring me poverty,
but the one who feeds the sparrow,
is the one who stands by me,
and the path that be my portion,
may be through the flame or flood,
but his presence goes before me,
and I'm covered with his blood. *Refrain*

~Ira F. Stanphill, 1914-1993

The Apostles' Creed

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

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.

For our brother Jeff, 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 Jeff, 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; for all who seek after you, O God, and a deeper knowledge of you, let faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. May we be found by you.

Silence may be kept.

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Jeff, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

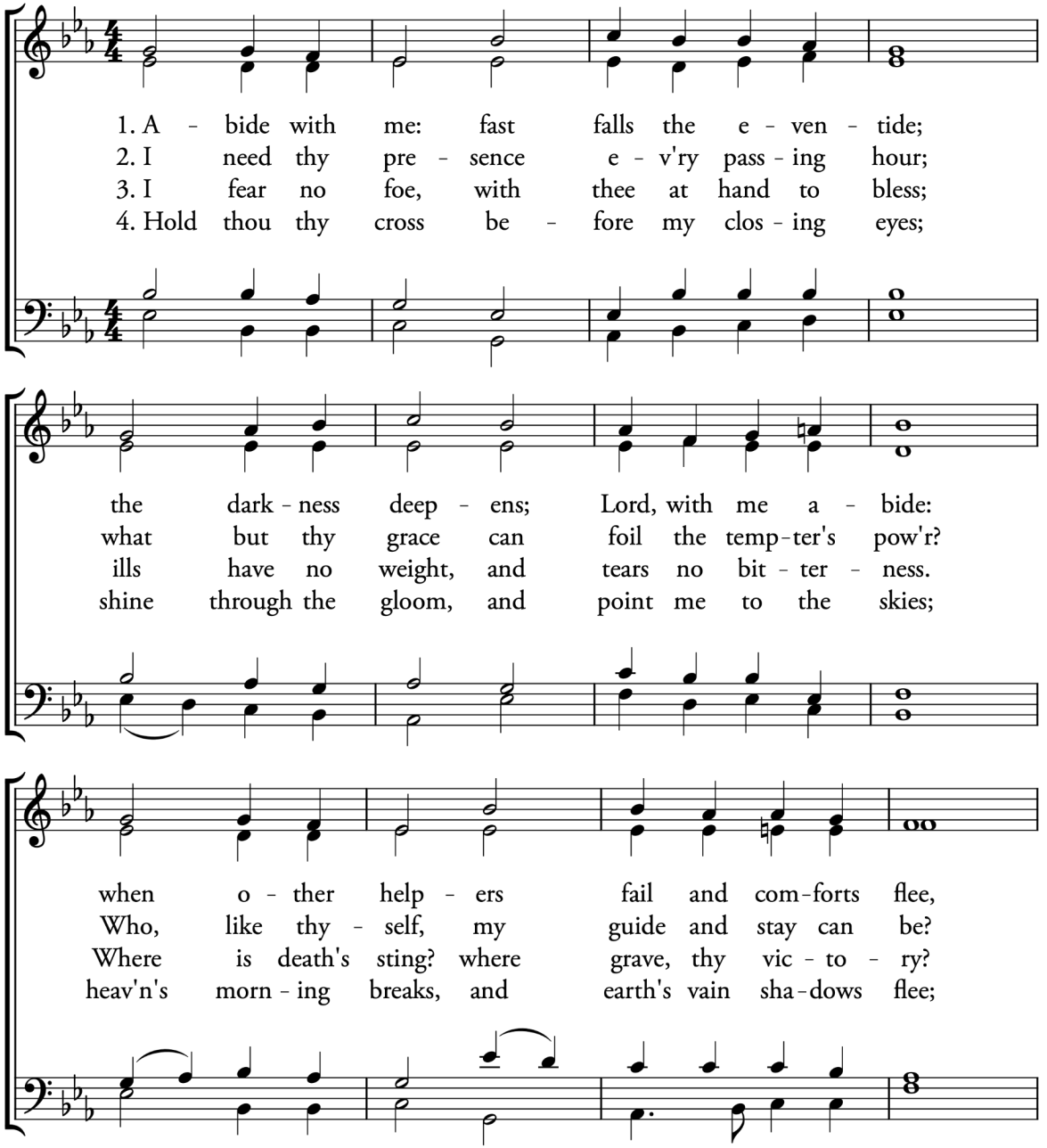
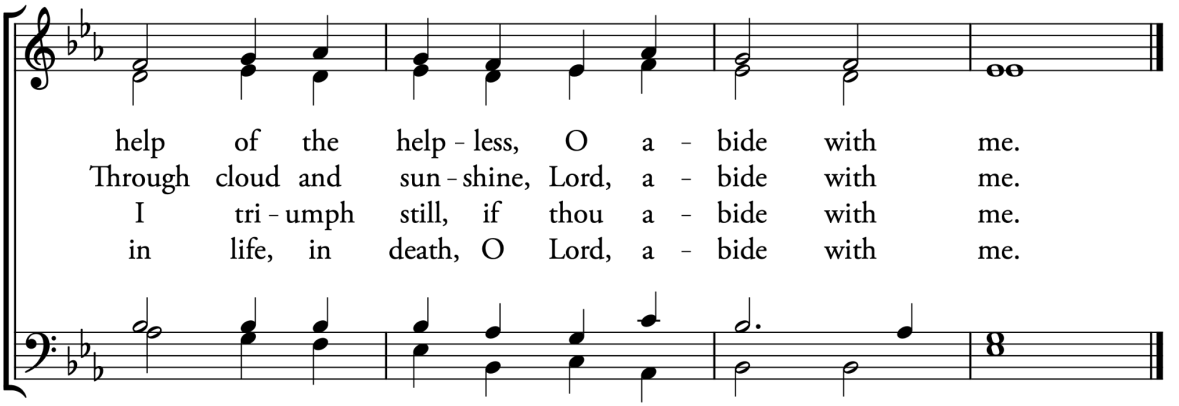
Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Words of Welcome

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Hymn

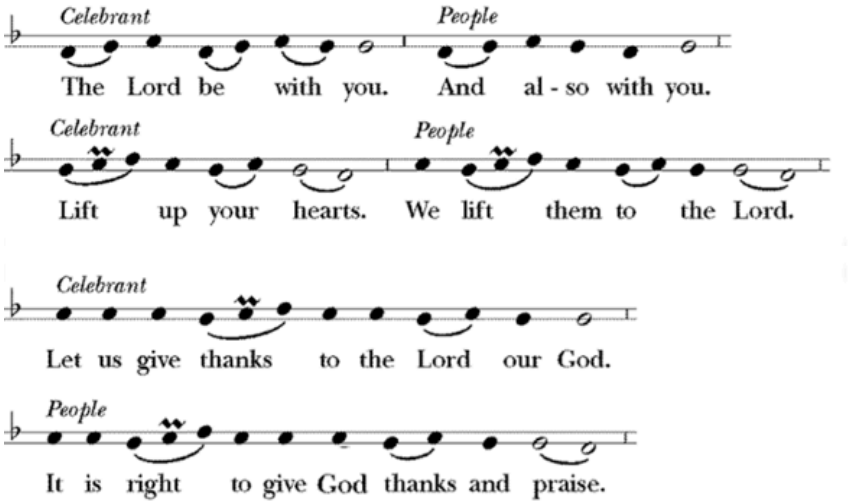
The hymn is sung by all, using the music on the following pages.

Abide with me EVENTIDE

1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
2. I need thy pre - sence e - v'ry pass - ing hour;
3. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
4. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;
the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
what but thy grace can foil the temp-ter's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
when o - ther help - ers fail and com-forts flee,
Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? where grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha-dows flee;

The people remain standing.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

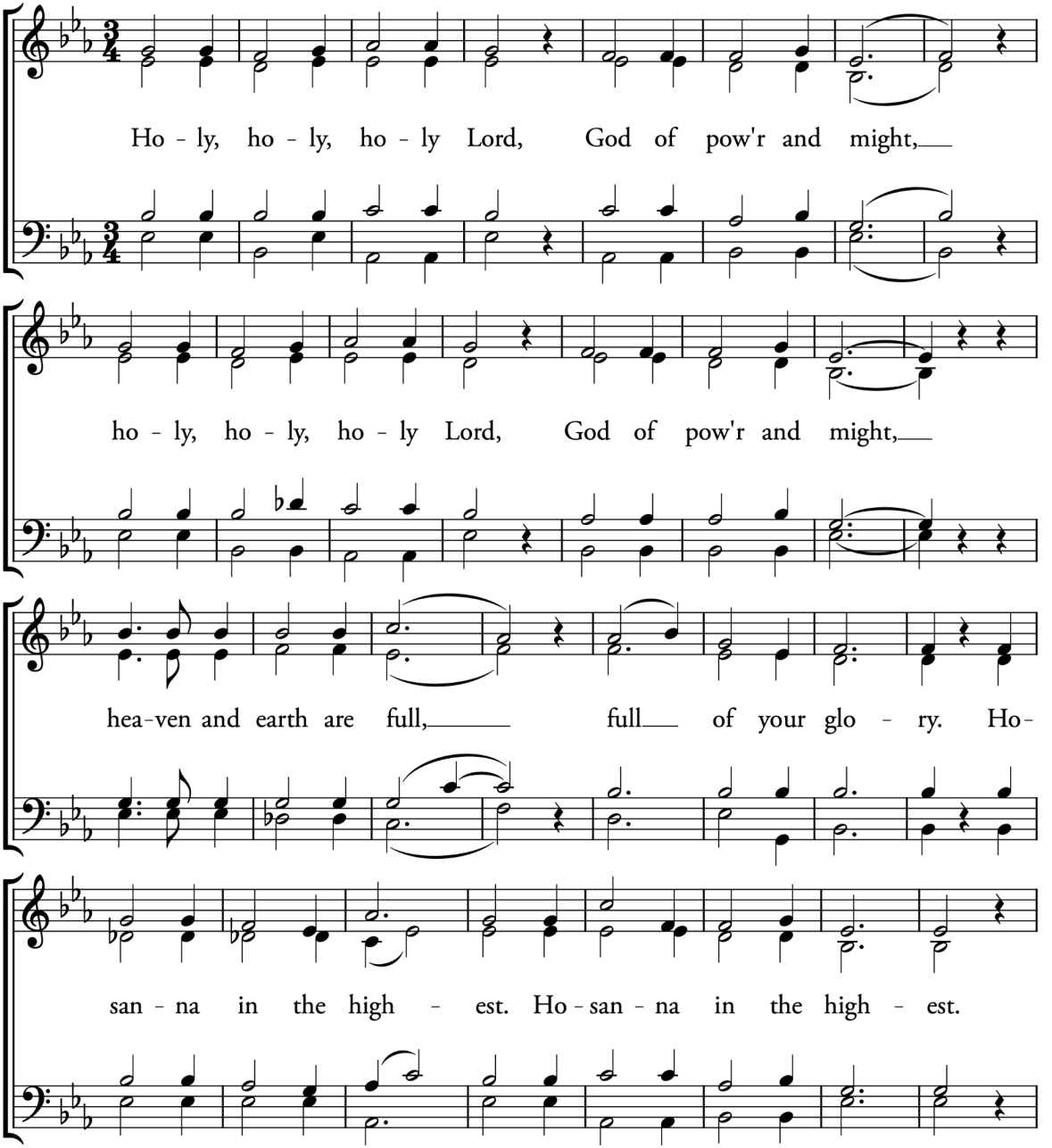
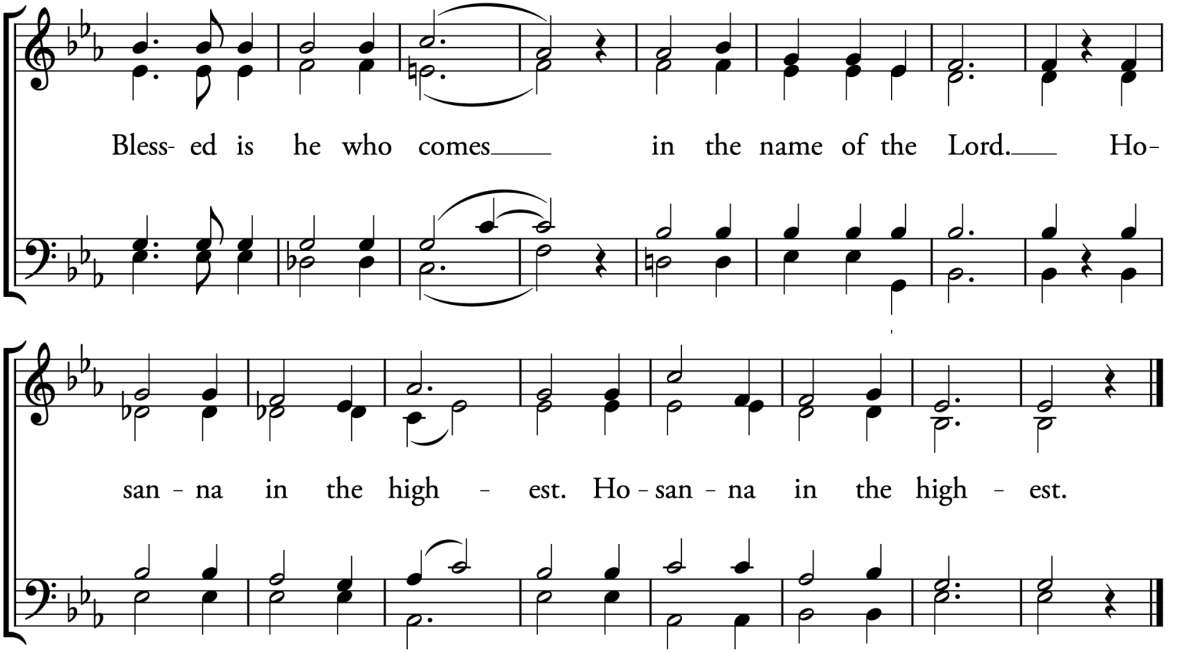
Book of Common Prayer



The Celebrant offers thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing, using the music on the following page.

The Sanctus

The Sanctus is sung by all.

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)



We give thanks to you, O God,...

...Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

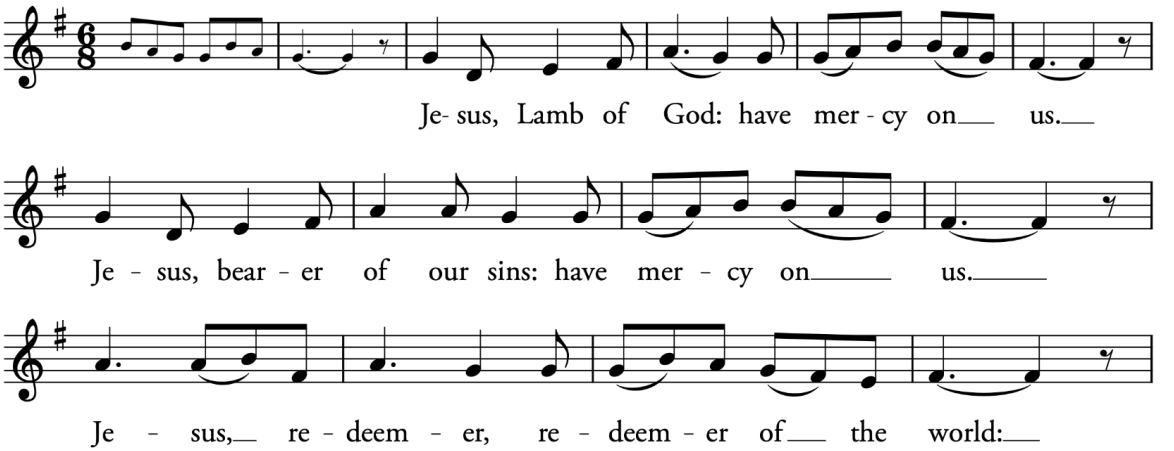
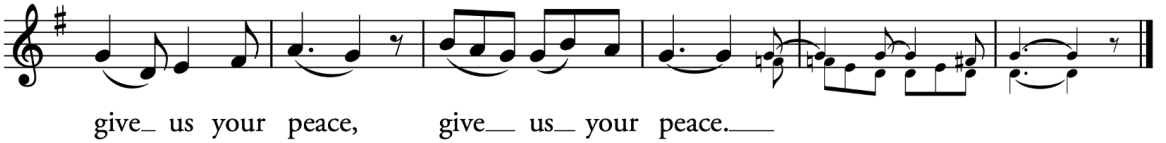
As our Savior Christ has taught us, now we pray:

Our Mother and Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Fraction Anthem

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

The Celebrant breaks the Bread in silence. All sing the fraction anthem.



The Invitation to Communion

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please move at the direction of the ushers. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and respond to receiving Communion by saying "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Receiving the bread only is a full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available. If you wish to receive through intinction (dipping the bread), please let the minister know when you come forward to receive the bread. The ministers will intinct for you. If you wish to drink from the chalice, after receiving the bread, please move to the chalice to the left or right of the minister.

The Communion Meditation

Music sung during communion is meant to draw the listener closer to God as we share in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist together. The meditation is sung by the Choir.

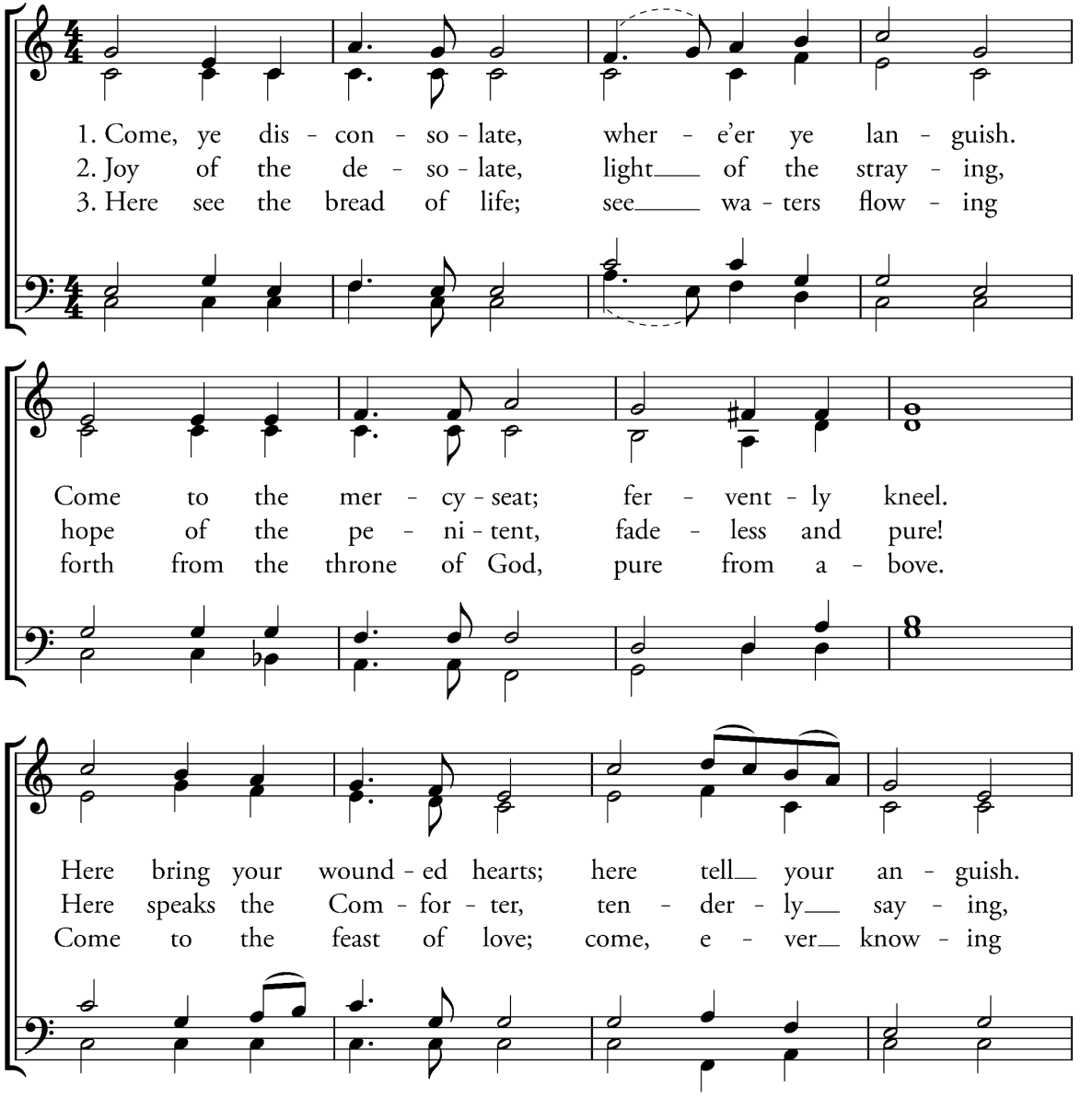
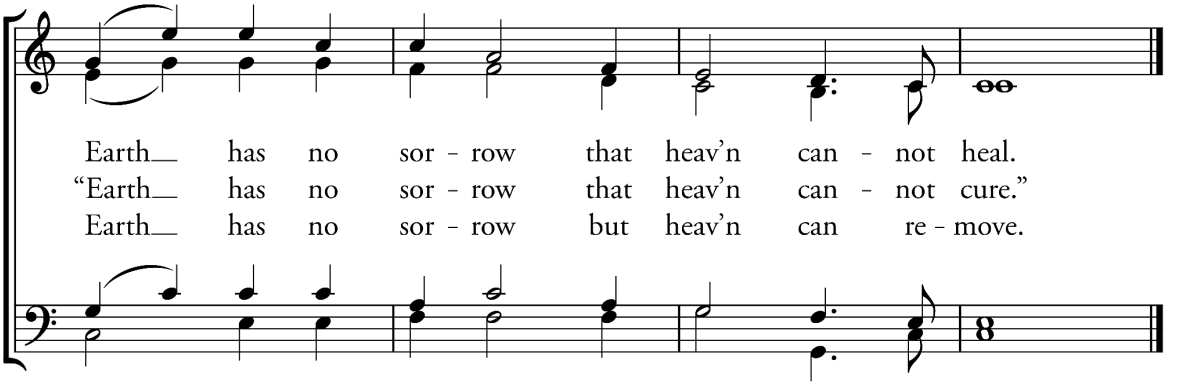
Ave Verum Corpus — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Ave verum corpus natum ex Maria Virgine,	Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary,
vere passum,	who has truly suffered,
immolatum in cruce pro homine,	was sacrificed on the cross for humankind,
cujus latus perforatum	whose side was pierced,
vero fluxit et sanguine,	whence flowed water and blood,
esto nobis praegustatum mortis	be for us a foretaste (of heaven)
in examine.	during our final examining.

~13th century Eucharistic chant, attr. Pope Innocent

The Communion Hymn

The hymn is sung by all.

Come, ye disconsolate — Sammuel Webbe

The Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

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.

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 humankind; 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.

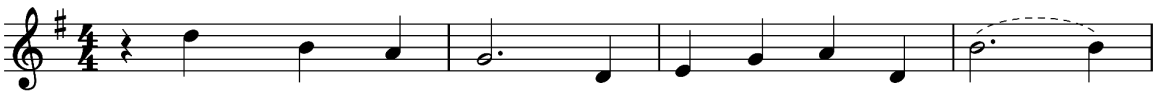
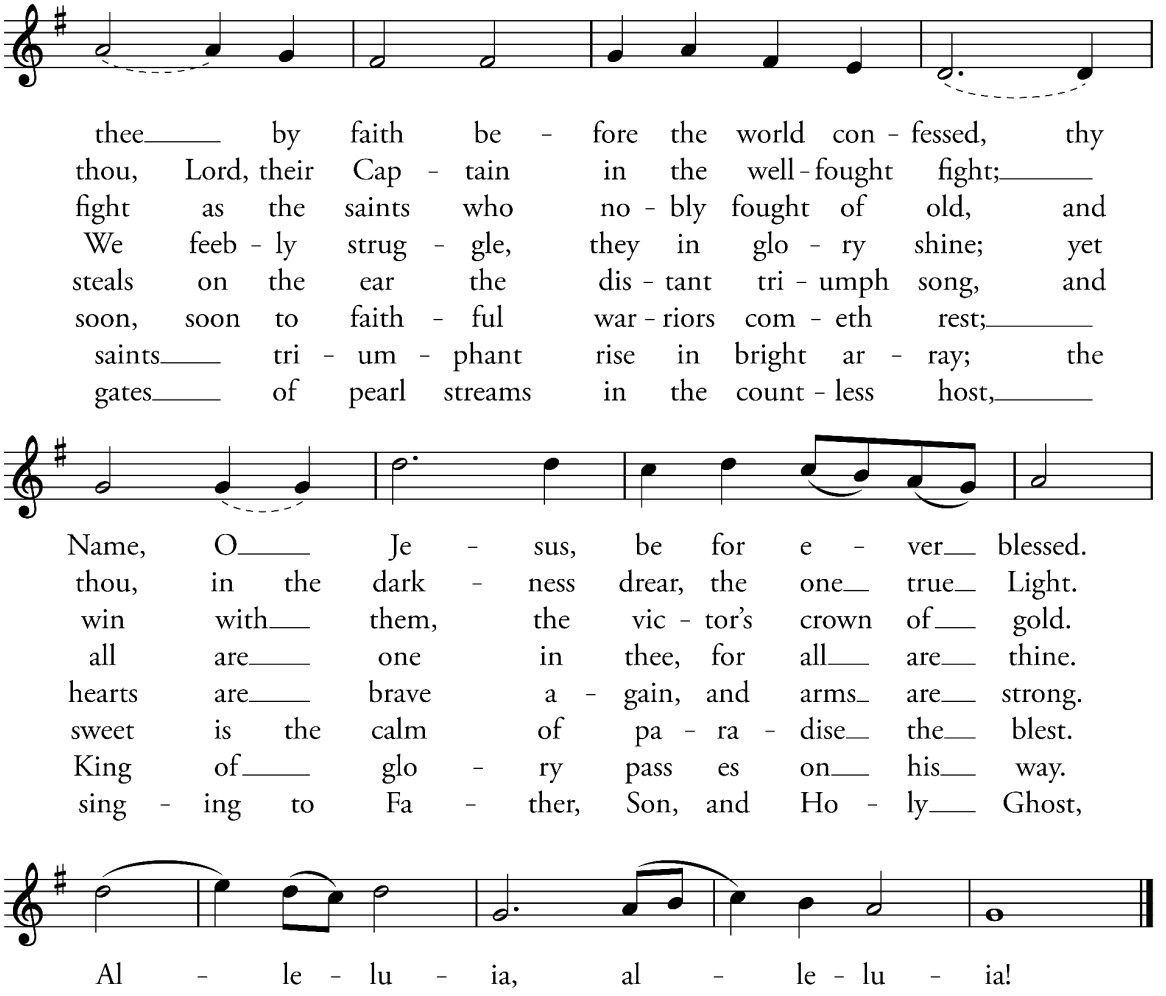
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Jeff. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The Blessing

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

The Closing Hymn

The hymn is sung by all.

For all the saints — SINE NOMINE

1. For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who
2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:
3. O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,
4. O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
5. And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
6. The gold - en eve - ning brigh - tens in the west;
7. But lo! there breaks a yet more glo - rious day; the
8. From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through

The Postlude

Following the clergy and family, the congregation processes out of the sanctuary.

Obituary

Jeffrey Hou, 43, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, surrounded by family and enveloped in words of love, comfort, and immense gratitude for his life. Born in Torrance, California, Jeff eventually made his home in Westfield, New Jersey, where he built a beautiful life with his beloved wife and their two children.

Jeff was a dedicated teacher at Oakwood Avenue Community School in Orange, New Jersey, where he spent much of his career teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). Teaching was not just a profession to Jeff — it was an expression of his deep care for others and his belief in their potential. He took great pride in helping his students grow, find their voices, and gain confidence in themselves.

Jeff met his wife, Leslie, when they were both 19 and attending the University of Texas at San Antonio. What began as a young love grew into 23 wonderful years of partnership, laughter, and deep friendship. Their love for one another was profound, steady, and beyond what words could fully express. Jeff had a gift for making Leslie laugh, finding humor in life's everyday absurdities, and bringing joy to even the most ordinary days. Their relationship was built not only on devotion, but on the joy of being best friends who could laugh together through life's ups and downs.

Before starting their family, Jeff and Leslie embraced life in New York City and later Jersey City, but their greatest joy came with the arrival of their children, Sam and Lydia. Becoming a father was one of Jeff's greatest gifts. He was immensely proud of his children and he loved them fiercely.

Jeff relished life, finding equal joy in international adventures and the simple rhythms of everyday family life. Whether traveling to faraway places, making a trip to the grocery store, or spending a quiet evening at home, what mattered most to Jeff was being together. He never took these moments for granted. To him, they were not small things, but the very moments that make a life meaningful and the everyday expressions

of the deep love he carried in his heart. Jeff understood that life's greatest adventures were the people with whom he shared the journey.

Friendship was another essential part of Jeff's life. He treasured the people who walked alongside him through the years, welcoming the memories made with friends who had become family. Jeff was funny in a way that made being around him a joy. With his quick wit, perfectly timed remarks, and playful observations, he could bring laughter into a room and turn an ordinary gathering into something memorable. His humor was part of his generosity — he absolutely LOVED making people laugh.

Though his life was far too short, it was filled with a remarkable abundance of love. That love lives on in Leslie, Sam, and Lydia; in his parents and sister; in his extended family; in his many, many friends; and in the countless students whose lives he touched. Jeff is survived by his beloved wife of 17 years, Leslie Armin; their two children, Sam and Lydia Hou; his parents, Fong and Yaling Hou; his sister, Patricia Lee, and her husband, Andrew Lee; and his cherished niece and nephew, Nico and AJ Lee. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, former students, and all who had the privilege of sharing in his life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jeff's memory to Kesem, a wonderful organization that supports children throughout a parent's cancer journey and beyond.

Looking to connect with a ministry?
Here are the Vestry Ministry Companion assignments.

St. George's Vestry

Senior Warden: Aleeda Crawley, *Property & Grounds, Fundraising*
Junior Warden: Magaly Denis-Roman, *Social Justice & Advocacy*
Denise Brown Allen, *Fun & Fellowship*
Nick Heller, *Community Evangelism*
Sebastian Hill, *Communications*
Glen Hoffs, *Outreach*
Christopher Kelly, *Fundraising*
Lindsay McHugh, *Worship*
Betsy Pine, *Discipleship*
Anthony Zuco, *Stewardship*

MUSIC: Unless otherwise noted, music is used and reprinted by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-713660. All rights reserved, or through RiteSong©2022 Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY 10016.

News and feature articles from around our diocese
http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/e-news

If you would like to make electronic donations you can scan the QR code below or follow the prompts at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YRGT

Saint George's Episcopal Church
550 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, New Jersey 07040
Phone: 973-762-1319
Email: parish-office@stgeorges-maplewood.org
Web: www.stgeorges-maplewood.org

Ministers
The People of St. George's
Megan Coiley, *Minister of Music*
Catherine Hines & Kristin Popham,
Ministers for Families & Youth
Ruth Deane, *Parish Administrator*
Curtis Bowers, Jr, *Sexton*