

*A Celebration of Life*  
**Jason Henry Okleshen**

June 10, 1976 – July 21, 2025



*August 8, 2025 10:30 AM*

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School  
400 Seabrook Rd., Tequesta, FL 33469  
561.746.4674      [www.goodsheponline.org](http://www.goodsheponline.org)

# THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

## PRELUDE

*Amazing Grace*

*solo*

## PROCESSIONAL

*All stand.*

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.

## WELCOME

## THE COLLECT

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

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

*The people are seated.*

# THE READINGS

## THE FIRST READING

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

*Readers: Jason's Nephews and Nieces*

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot.  
a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23      *said in unison*

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

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:9

*Reader: Janice Thomas*

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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
 consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
 Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
 And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
 When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
 And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. [Refrain]

**Refrain:**

Then sings my soul, my Savior,  
 God to Thee;  
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
 Then sings my soul, my Savior,  
 God to Thee;  
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,  
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
 And there proclaim, my God,  
 how great thou art.  
 [Refrain]

## THE THIRD READING

JOHN 14:1-6

*Reader: Sheila Apel*

Jesus said, "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."

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

*The people sit.*

## REMEMBRANCES

## HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr.

*The people stand.*

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

*Celebrant 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

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For our brother, Jason, 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 Jason 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 Jason eternal life.

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

Jason 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 Jason; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Jason, 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.**

MUSIC

*Song of Farewell*

Sands

## THE COMMENDATION

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

*Celebrant* 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.

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

*Celebrant* Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Jason. 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

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us.  
So... be swift to love and make haste to be kind.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Be among you now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

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

## CLOSING HYMN

*Eagle's Wings*

Joncas

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in his shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
my rock in whom I trust!"

### Refrain:

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
under his wings your refuge,  
his faithfulness your shield. **[Refrain]**

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come. **[Refrain]**

**Contribute to a memorial fund in the name of Jason H. Okleshen  
for future charitable use by his daughters, Mina and Elin Okleshen  
at: [everloved.com/life-of/jason-okleshen/](https://everloved.com/life-of/jason-okleshen/)  
or scan the QR Code below.**



# PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

**Celebrant/Homilist:** The Rev. Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr.

**Verger:** Peggy Greene

**Crucifer:** Will Grabkowski

**Readers:** Jason's Nephews/Nieces, Janice Thomas, Sheila Apel

**Organist:** Timm Johnson-Reynolds

**Soloist:** Debbie White

**Ushers:** Kathleen Borup, Denise Preston, Stacy Ulman

**Traffic:** Rob Grover



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*Following the service,  
please join the family for a reception  
at Tequesta Country Club  
201 Country Club Drive, Tequesta, FL 33469*

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