



second presbyterian church

**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

MARCH 4, 2024

1:00 O'CLOCK P.M.

**A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION FOR
GILLIS WARREN STEPHENSON**

PRELUDE

GREETING

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

OPENING PRAYER

* **HYMN No. 721** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*
PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

Ted Mitchell
Andrew Thalheimer
Boyd Stephenson

PSALTER (*UNISON*)

PSALM 23

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 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 forever.

ANTHEM

On Eagle's Wings
Melanie Hanna Ezell, soprano

M. Joncas

HOMILY

Rev. Ben Kane

- * **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*RESPONSIVE*) FROM ROMANS 8
- What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
**He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us.**
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
**No, in all these things we are more than victorious
through him who loved us.**
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come,
**nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in
all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of
God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

COMMENDATION

- * **HYMN No. 625** *How Great Thou Art* HOW GREAT THOU ART
- * **BENEDICTION**
- * **POSTLUDE**

* Please rise in body or spirit.

MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane

Rev. Alisa Secrest

ORGANIST

Melanie Ezell Hanna, soprano

Jason Saugey, organ

*The family appreciates your presence and asks that you join them in
Second Hall after the service for a reception.*

THE SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

The Service of Witness to the Resurrection is an affirmation of faith in God's love for all people, a love that strengthens and supports, even in the midst of grief. In this service we bear witness to the sure and certain hope of eternal life, promised in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith, and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. We don't deny those emotions and experiences. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the Gospel. The joy and triumph of Christ's resurrection is proclaimed through the hymns we sing, the prayers we offer and the scriptures we read.

Furthermore, Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation, but are sustained by the power of the Spirit in and through the community of faith. The church is that community of faith that offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

The Paschal Candles on the Communion table symbolize the light of the risen Christ, which shines even in the midst of the darkness of death. The cross above the chancel reminds us of Christ's ultimate sacrifice that gives us the gift of life after death. And the silences in our worship remind us of the loneliness of death that are greeted by the joyful sounds of worship, reminding us that God has triumphed over death.