



IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Celebration of Life

September 25, 2020

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A Service of Resurrection and Hope for James Ferguson

September 25, 2020 10 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Memphis, TN

COMMENDATION

Pastor: As the church brings a new Christian into the fellowship of faith through the waters of Holy Baptism and sustains that faith through God's Word and Sacrament, God has given us the task of sharing His love. In sharing God's love we declare, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." Then, at the death of one of God's saints, the voice of God's people is heard again proclaiming the sure and certain hope in the resurrection of the dead through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrow with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

INVOCATION

Pastor: We gather today to give strength and comfort to one another in the name of the living God. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us share and speak the Word of life to one another.

People: **You give us the gift of eternal life, Almighty Father, so we live.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ have mercy upon us.**

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

PASTORAL GREETING

Pastor: May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loves us and gave us an everlasting and a good hope through grace, inwardly comfort your hearts and strengthen you in all things. The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray...O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for your loving kindness to all Your saints who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful until death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Revelations 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place^[a] of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,^[b] and God himself will be with them as their God.^[c] ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord,^[a] that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN When Peace Like a River LSB 763

- 1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
Refrain:
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]
- 3 He lives—Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]
- 4 And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

Psalm 46: 1-5

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah* ⁴ There is a river whose treams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Words of Remembrance

Frank Adcock

SERMON: God is a Very Great help in Times of Trouble Reverend Terry Tieman

THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH – *The Apostles' Creed (spoken in unison)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

People. **Amen.**

COMMITTAL

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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 forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Recessional

SERVING THE LORD TODAY

Officiant: Rev. Gregory Prauner

Preacher: Rev. Terry Tieman

Piano: Pam Sneath

Pallbearers: Frank Adcock, Billy Rye, Ed Ward, Elmer Holder, Bob Rimer, Patrick Holder, Justin Rimer

James E. Ferguson

NOVEMBER 4, 1950 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

James E. Ferguson, 69, of Bartlett, passed away September 23rd. James was born in Rhode Island, but was raised in Memphis. He graduated from Messick High School in 1968, and received his Undergraduate ('71) and Master's ('77) degrees from Memphis State University, where he studied Accounting. James began his career at Firestone before becoming a licensed CPA and opening his own practice. For over 40 years, James served clients from both Bartlett and Memphis. James was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his family and cheering them on during their many sporting events. From the roundhouse to the Grindhouse, James was a dedicated Tiger fan, and was a longtime season ticket holder. Besides watching sports, James was an avid golfer, and enjoyed hitting the links often with his sons and friends. James was preceded in death by his mother, Wanda (Walding) Rimer and his step-father, Robert "Bob" Rimer. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Laqueta (Holder) Ferguson; his sons Rob Ferguson (Maria) of Memphis, TN; Brett Ferguson (Jessica) of Jackson, MS; and his granddaughters Grace, Reagan, and Greer. He will be missed greatly by his family and many friends. The funeral service will be held Friday, September 25th, 2020 at 10a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 6325 Raleigh Lagrange Road, Memphis, TN. For those not able to attend, the service will also be available via live-stream. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in his memory to the University of Memphis Tiger Scholarship Fund.