

# Christ Presbyterian Church

I have kept back nothing, but have declared to you  
the whole counsel of God. —Acts 20:27



Service of Witness to the Resurrection  
for James Luther Thacker

8 May 2023



## Reflection

It is natural for persons that are bereaved of any that are dear to them, and for all under deep sorrow, to seek some that they may declare and lay open their griefs to, that they have good reason to think will pity them, and have a fellow feeling with them of their distress. The heart that is full of grief wants vent, and desires to pour out its complaint; but it seeks a compassionate friend to pour it out before.

Christ is such an one, above all others. He of old, before his incarnation, manifested himself full of compassion towards his people; for that is Jesus that is spoken of: Isaiah 63:9: “In all their affliction he was afflicted; and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.” And when he was upon earth in his state of humiliation, he was the most wonderful instance of a tender, pitiful, compassionate Spirit, that ever appeared in the world. How often are we told of his having compassion on one and another! So Matthew 15:32: “Then Jesus called his disciples, and said unto them, ‘have compassion on the multitude.’”

He was one that wept with those that wept: and indeed it was mere pity that brought him into the world, and induced him not only to shed tears but to shed his blood: he poured out his blood as water on the earth, out of compassion to the poor, miserable children of men. And when do we ever read of any one person coming to him when on earth, with a heavy heart, or under any kind of sorrow or distress for pity or help, but what met with a kind and compassionate reception?

And he has the same compassion now he is ascended into glory: there is still the same encouragement for bereaved ones to go and spread their sorrows before him.

Afflicted persons love to speak of their sorrows to them that have had experience of affliction, and know what sorrow is: but there is none on earth or in heaven that ever had so much experience of sorrow as Christ: therefore he knows how to pity the sorrowful, and especially may we be confident that he is ready to pity those that are bereaved.

— Jonathan Edwards  
*The Sorrows of the Bereaved Spread Before Jesus*  
2 September 1741

# A Service of Witness to the Resurrection

for **James Luther Thacker**

(14 April 1942 – 18 April 2023)

8 May 2023

## Statement of Purpose

- To worship and glorify God.
- To present his salvation in the gospel.
- To honor the life of **Jim Thacker**.

## Prelude

Hymn 521    My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less    *Trinity Hymnal*

## Opening Sentences of Scripture

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

*Romans 14:8*

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

*Psalms 116:15*

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

*John 11:25–26*

## Prayer

▲ Hymn 457    Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing    *Trinity Hymnal*

## ▲ Confession of Our Hope and Comfort in Christ

*What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

That I am not my own but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

*Heidelberg Catechism*

## Scripture Reading: Our Time is in God's Hands

For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1–8*

## Special Music

Benjamin Russell

## Scripture Reading: the Psalms

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

*Psalms 103:13–18*

## Words of Remembrance

### Scripture Reading: Hope and Comfort in the Gospel

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to 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.”

*John 14:1–6*

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

We are more than conquerors 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.

*Romans 8:31–35, 37–39*

## Scripture Reading: The Resurrection and the Life Everlasting

“Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, the time is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be surprised at this, for the time is coming when all who are in the grave will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”

*John 5:24–29*

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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He 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.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

*Revelation 21:1–7*

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

<sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup> This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

▲ Hymn

Christ, Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death?  
Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to him belong.  
Who holds our days within his hand?  
What comes, apart from his command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

*Chorus*

*O sing, Hallelujah!*

*Our hope springs eternal;*

*O sing, Hallelujah!*

*Now and ever we confess*

*Christ, our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is his grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

*O sing, Hallelujah!*

*Our hope springs eternal;*

*O sing, Hallelujah!*

*Now and ever we confess*

*Christ, our hope in life and death.*

*Continues...*

Unto the grave, what will we sing?  
“Christ, he lives! Christ, he lives!”  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
Then sin and death will be destroyed,  
And we will feast in endless joy,  
When Christ is ours forevermore.

*O sing, Hallelujah!*  
*Our hope springs eternal;*  
*O sing, Hallelujah!*  
*Now and ever we confess*  
*Christ, our hope in life and death. (Repeat chorus.)*

⬆ **Special Music**

Matthew Thacker

⬆ **Closing Prayer**

⬆ *Nunc Dimittis* (Song of Simeon)

Now may your servant, Lord,  
according to your word,  
depart in exultation.

My rest shall be serene,  
for now my eyes have seen  
your wonderful salvation.

You did for all prepare  
this Gift, so great, so rare,  
fulfilling prophets' story;

A Light to show the way  
to Gentiles gone astray,  
and unto Israel's glory.

⬆ **Benediction**

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Hebrews 13:20–21*

---

⬆ Congregation stands as able

## **James Luther Thacker**

14 April 1942 – 18 April 2023

James Luther Thacker was born at home on April 14, 1942, in Columbus, Ohio, to parents Lawrence LeRoy Thacker and Norma Louise DeBord Thacker. He was the second of three children, the only boy. He was always called Jimmy, but as an adult he went by the name Jim. His early childhood days were spent being cared for by his maternal grandparents, as both his parents worked during the day. He often shared fond memories of his Grandma DeBord and how much she loved and cared for him. He never forgot that his grandpa endearingly called him “Spike.” Jim’s elementary school years were spent attending Linden Elementary. Of his childhood years, Jim would tell stories of how he and his sister Janet would often do household chores together, such as preparing part of supper, or washing/drying the dishes. In 1960, Jim graduated from Linden McKinley High School.

Jim would say that he was an average student in elementary and junior high school. In high school, he participated in the marching band and played the tenor saxophone. This was Jim’s introduction to the appreciation of instrumental music and music performance which he would cherish throughout his life. In college, Jim majored in business and marketing, taking his general education classes at The Ohio State University. He later transferred and graduated in 1967 with a bachelor’s in business and marketing from Bradley University in Illinois. After graduation, Jim began working at Lazarus Department Store in downtown Columbus, specializing in merchandising in several departments, such as clothing and fine china.

In 1967, Jim met Ann Marcia Strickler, who lived in the same apartment building across the second-floor stairway landing. So the story goes, Jim almost stepped in Ann’s Jell-O, which was cooling on the metal stairs. Later, they shared a “blind” double-date over a fondue meal. Fondue was their special meal to share with family for years to come. Then, in 1968, Jim was drafted into the Army and served in the Vietnam War, where he spent 1 year in Support Operations. Jim and Ann spent the year communicating through love letters and recorded messages on cassette tapes. Upon Jim’s return home, the couple was married on September 28, 1969, in Ann’s hometown of North Manchester, Indiana. The couple’s first apartment was in Columbus, Ohio, while Jim

continued to work for Lazarus. On February 5, 1971, Jim and Ann's first child, Colleen Carisa Thacker, was born. Jim drove Ann and Colleen home from the hospital through a snow blizzard!

In January of 1972, Jim and Ann decided to move their family to Stockton, California. Jim found employment working for Weinstock's Department Store. While attending an American Baptist church in Stockton, Jim came to faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized. Approximately two years later, Jim and family moved to Southern California to be closer to Ann's parents and to work for Ann's brother, Bill Strickler, in the shoe business. In December 1974, Jim and Ann purchased their first home in the city of La Habra. Jim and Ann began attending the First Baptist Church in Fullerton. Shortly thereafter, their second daughter, Maia Ellen Thacker, was born on July 10, 1975.

In 1978, several significant events happened in close succession. On April 25, Jim's third child, Matthew Strickler Thacker, was born. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim and Ann purchased the Village Art Center, a custom picture framing business in Fullerton which they owned and operated. And on June 10<sup>th</sup>, their middle daughter Maia died very suddenly. In all these things, they trusted in the Lord, and their church family surrounded and supported them.

Jim was a determined and disciplined entrepreneur. He worked long hours, opening the business doors from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. When business was slow, he would open the business six days a week, closing only on Sunday. After closing, he would spend hours producing the orders taken in during the day and often worked late into the night. Jim mastered the artistic skill of custom picture framing and developed a reputation throughout Orange County for his high quality and artistic craftsmanship. Jim and Ann framed many one-of-a-kind pieces including fabric art, the work of local artists, and even three-dimensional shadowboxes of priceless family heirlooms. They employed several staff to assist with framing under Jim's careful supervision. Some twenty people worked for them over the life of the business. Jim and Ann moved the business two times, each time to a better location in downtown Fullerton. In 1993, it was the final location where Jim and Ann purchased the property on Harbor Boulevard, which runs through the heart of Orange County. Jim and Ann retired from the Village Art Center in October of 2011.

When Jim was not working, he enjoyed spending time with family, attending church, and going to hear live musical performances. Jim loved and appreciated music, especially orchestral music. Jim and Ann had season tickets to hear the Los Angeles Philharmonic in downtown LA. He also loved the opera! Jim took several opera courses at the local community college and participated in field trips to see and hear live opera performances throughout Southern California. Jim and Ann would also go to local theaters to watch livestream opera performances from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

For approximately forty years, Jim and Ann were faithful members of the First Baptist Church of Fullerton, later known as Wilshire Avenue Community Church. They transferred their church membership to Grace Evangelical Free Church in La Mirada and were members there for approximately ten years.

There was no question that Jim loved his family. He thoroughly loved spending time with his wife, children, and their spouses: Colleen and Ruben Velasco and their daughter Christina Joy Velasco (17); Matthew and Tegan Thacker, and their sons: Levi James Thacker (10), and Jude Matthew Thacker (7).

In 2021, Jim and Ann decided to sell their home in Brea, California, after thirty-six years and move to North Texas to be near their children's families. Jim and Ann began attending Christ Presbyterian Church with Matthew and his family and became members in February 2023. Leaving California was difficult for Jim, but he always thanked God for allowing him and Ann to live in Texas near his family.

On April 18, 2023, Jim died of heart failure while being treated in the hospital for problems with his gallbladder. Although Jim's death came as a shock to his family, they continue to trust in God's providence.





**Officiating Minister** – Rev. John Canales

**Pianist** – Sharon Miller

**Musicians** – Matthew Thacker, Benjamin Russell

**Christ Presbyterian Church (OPC)**

3410 Peters Colony Road • Flower Mound, Texas 75022 • 972-355-5892  
[www.ChristPresbyterian.org](http://www.ChristPresbyterian.org) • [email@ChristPresbyterian.org](mailto:email@ChristPresbyterian.org)

**Staff**

**Pastor** – Rev. John Canales

**Director of Music** – Sharon Miller

**Office Manager** – Mary Jo Canales

**Elders:** Rod Alexander (emeritus), Adam Grimes, Scott Peterson

**Deacons:** Doug Boswell, Leng Ea, Brandon Luter, Rod Miller