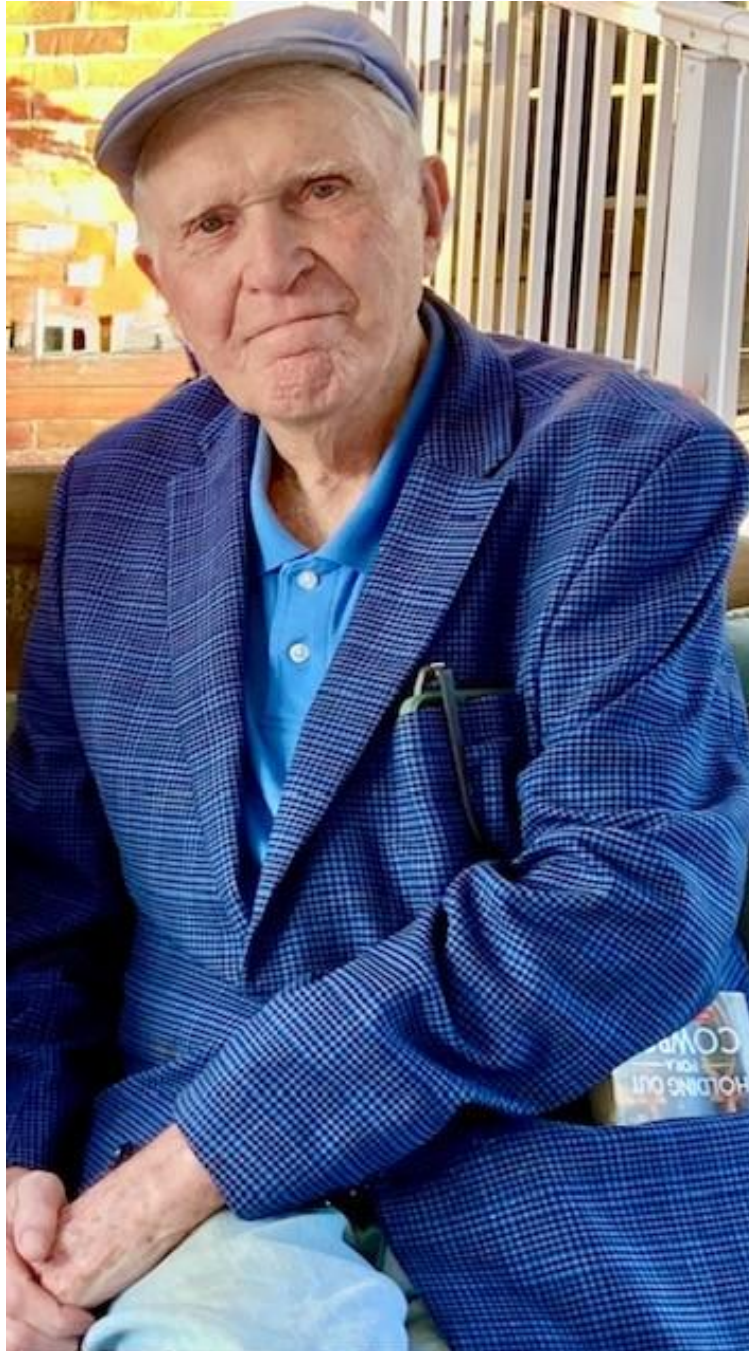


A Celebration of the Life  
of  
James Hill



Saturday, June 20, 2026

Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta Georgia

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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."

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that Jim has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

## **The Burial of the Dead: Rite Two**

*All stand while the following anthem is said.*

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.

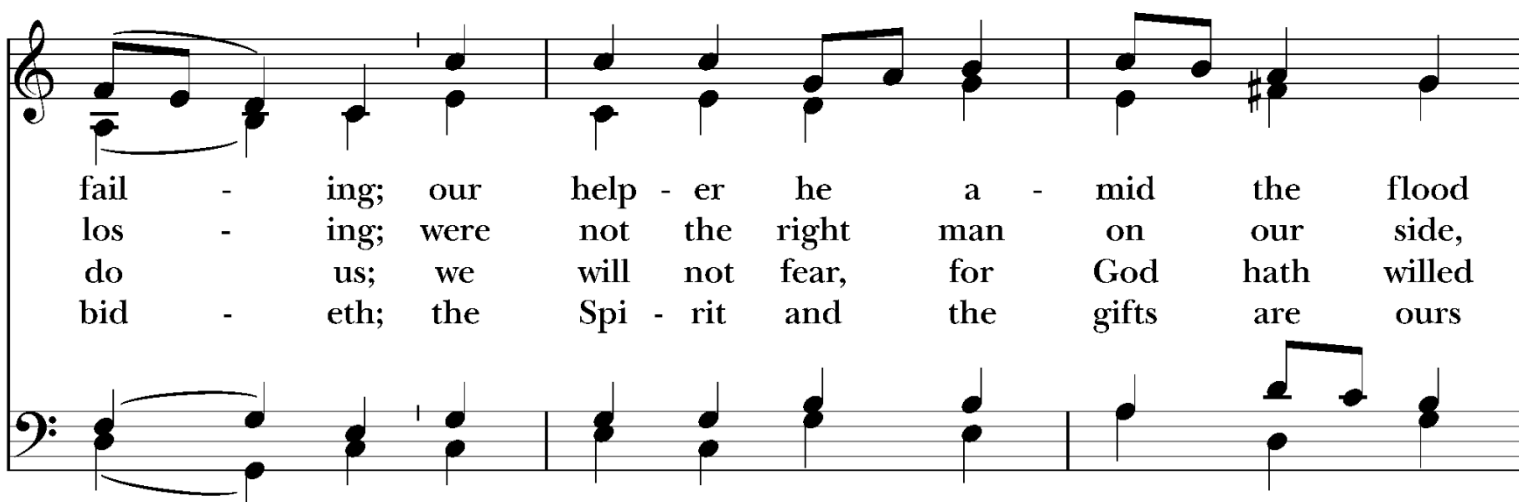
Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Hymn – *A mighty fortress is our God (Ein feste Burg)*

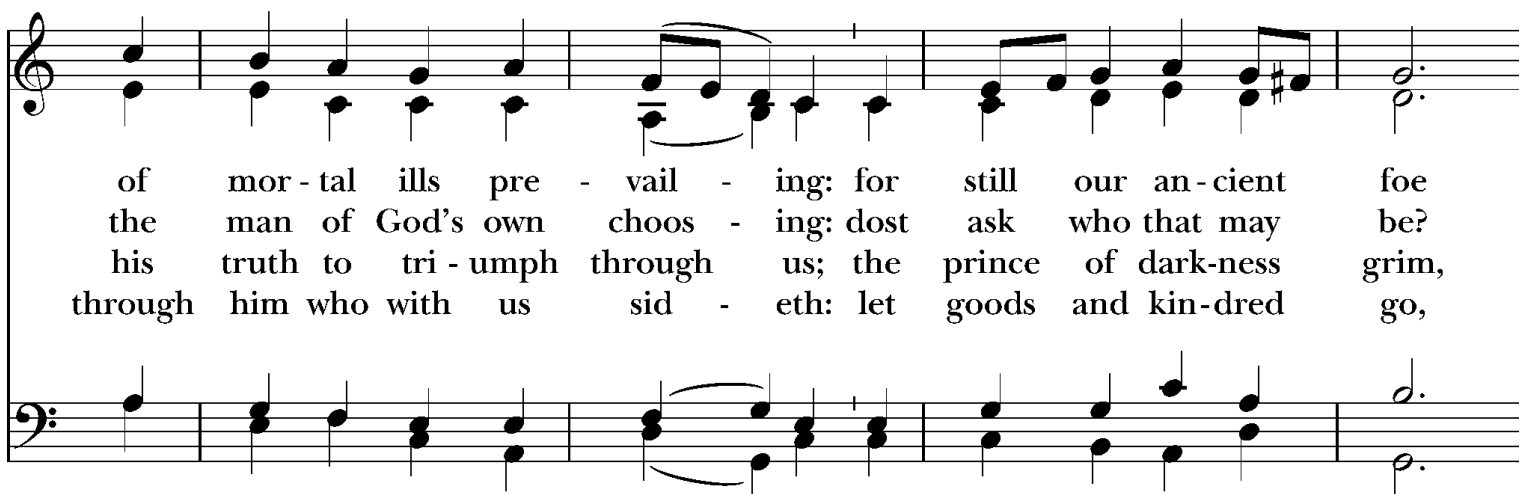
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1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood  
los - ing; were not the right man on our side,  
do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed  
bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours



of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe  
the man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be?  
his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,  
through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:

and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

*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 Jim. 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 Celebrant may add the following prayer*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Jim's family and friends in their grief. 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 people sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139:1-11

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**
- 4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.**
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

## The Epistle

Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

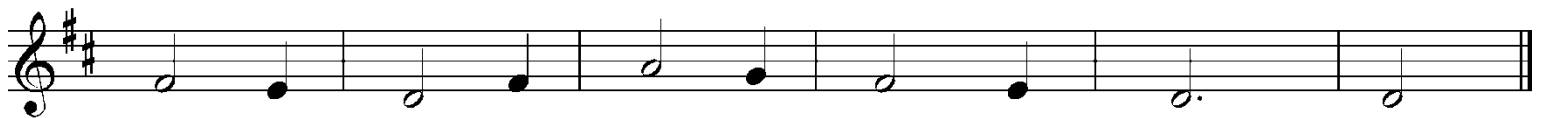
**Thanks be to God.**



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness  
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed  
 \* 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 \* 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear  
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion  
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if  
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant  
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der  
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my  
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port  
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.  
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-lestial feed-eth.  
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.  
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.  
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!  
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

John 10:11-16

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away-- and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily – *The Rev'd Jim Elliott*

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.**

## **Prayers of the People**

For our brother Jim, 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 Jim, 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; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Jim, 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

*Celebrant*        The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Offertory – *Ashokan Farewell*

by Jay Unger

# The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

## **Fraction Anthem**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**grant him rest.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**grant him rest.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
**grant him rest eternal.**

*Celebrant*      The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **The Communion**

*Celebrant*      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.**

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;  
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery 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 tempt - er's power?  
 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?  
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

# The Commendation

*Celebrant*

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 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.

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

*The Celebrant, facing the body, says*

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

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb.

The Sun of Righteousness is gloriously risen, giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world.

Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in his Name, saying, Come, O blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you.

Into paradise may the angels lead thee; and at thy coming may the martyrs receive thee, and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem.

## The Committal

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;  
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to  
our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

*While earth is cast upon the coffin, the Celebrant says these words*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Jim, and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you

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

*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;  
And let light perpetual shine upon him.

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

The Blessing

<i>Celebrant</i>	Alleluia. Christ is risen.
<b>People</b>	<b>The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
<b>People</b>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

## **Obituary for James Franklin Hill**

James Franklin “Jim” Hill, a true gentleman and scholar, passed away peacefully on May 1, 2026, in Valdosta, Georgia at the age of 89, following a stroke. He was surrounded with love by his wife, Whidden and his daughter, Rachel.

Jim’s life began on February 12, 1937, in Cleburne, Texas, the son of Eulalia Dabbs and James William Hill. He spent his childhood and teenage years in the Fort Worth area with his parents and three sisters, Laela, Sue Ann, and Donna, who fondly called him “Jimmy.” From an early age he developed a love of baseball, pitching on teams coached by his father, including at the semi-professional level, and later as an undergraduate at Southern Methodist University. During his time at SMU, he was a proud member of the Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) fraternity, a brotherhood he later shared with his grandson.

Jim completed his Master’s degree in Philosophy at the University of Chicago before moving to New York City, where he worked with at-risk youth at the YMCA. While there, he pursued an interest in acting and performed in an off-Broadway production of *Death of a Salesman*. He later earned his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia, where he married Katherine Omelanuk. They welcomed their daughter, Rachel Leslie, during his first teaching appointment in Newberry, SC, where he also served as Director of Camp Gravatt in the summer.

In 1973, Jim joined the faculty at Valdosta State University and taught philosophy and ethics for 33 years. A gifted and dedicated educator, he taught courses in all areas of philosophy, as well as medical, environmental, and business ethics. During his career he led the Honors Program at VSU and taught courses at Moody Air Force Base, Kings Bay Naval Base and in Syktyvkar, Russia. He loved writing and presenting papers, co-authored a book on environmental ethics, and was widely published in his field. Jim’s impact on his students was profound and lasting; he received numerous awards for excellence in undergraduate teaching and maintained close relationships with many of his students throughout his life.

Jim grew up in the Methodist church and as a teenager considered the ordained ministry. He was committed to his faith and strongly motivated by Christ’s call to serve the poor, the sick, and the needy. A passionate believer in civil rights, Jim was instrumental in the Mary Turner memorial project and marched for racial justice with Pastor Floyd Rose. He was an active member of both Presbyterian and Episcopal churches in Quitman and Valdosta.

A man of wide-ranging interests, Jim loved the outdoors—camping, hiking, fishing, and traveling in his Volkswagen camper. His favorite places included Big Bend National Park, the Guadalupe Mountains of West Texas, the Okefenokee Swamp, and Reed Bingham State Park. He loved horses throughout his life and fondly remembered his horse, Commander. While baseball was his first passion, he also enjoyed football, tennis, and, later in life, a competitive game of cornhole.

Jim had a lifelong love of learning and conversation. He relished spirited discussions on philosophy, science, politics, and current events, and he was an avid reader who always had a

book at hand. He loved music of all kinds, especially bluegrass and country, and was particularly fond of artists like George Jones and Kris Kristofferson. He enjoyed dancing the Texas two-step, attending local gatherings like the Hahira Pick-In, and sharing good food and good company.

Known for his humor, warmth, and unmistakable Texas accent, Jim was rarely seen without his signature professorial blazer, a collection of pens, reading glasses, and a well-loved hat—often a baseball cap. He lived in Valdosta for 54 years, though in his heart he always remained a Texan. Above all, he cherished his family and friends. They were the center of his life and his greatest source of pride and joy.

Jim shared nearly 40 years of marriage with Marie Stokes Hill until her passing in 2024. Together they built a loving, blended family with their children Patti, Michelle, Rachel, and Brady. Jim and Marie loved spending time with family and friends and shared an enjoyment of teaching, travel, humor, literature, and the cultural arts. They also had three faithful canine companions, Buck, Pappy and Scarlett.

In the last year of his life, Jim met Anne Whidden Young at Langdale Place in Valdosta and they were married on October 22, 2025. Their relationship was filled with love, companionship, joy, and deep affection. Even though Jim and Whidden did not have nearly enough time together, they shared many wonderful months dining out, watching sports, going to movies, evening walks, and joyful gatherings with Pope and Evelyn and their family.

Jim is survived by his wife, Anne Whidden Hill; his children and stepchildren: Rachel Hill Freytag (Richard) and their children, Henry and Catherine; Patricia Harrison Carr (Dan) and their children, Colleen (Liz) and Kyle (Jessica); Laura Michelle Harrison and her children, Dylan and Hannah (Eric), and their daughter, Eleanor; William Brady Harrison (Heather) and their children, Victor and Cecilia; William Pope Langdale III (Evelyn) and their children, Lanier, Isabel, and William.

Jim is also survived by his sisters Donna Crawford and Sue Ann Carlisle, sister-in-law Laura Stokes; as well as nieces, nephews, and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Marie Stokes Hill, his sister Laela Vinsant, and his nephew William Crawford (Christa).

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the staff of South Georgia Medical Center and Southwell Rehabilitation for their compassionate care. They are deeply thankful for the incredible administrators, nurses, staff, and residents of Langdale Place, where Jim lived in a warm and loving community for eight years.

In lieu of flowers, Jim would be honored to have donations in his name made to non-profit organizations that support his values, such as the VSU Foundation (for student scholarships), Racial Justice Georgia, Langdale Place, Langdale Hospice, and the Children's Imagination Station in Valdosta.

*Celebrant:* *The Reverend R. Kevin Kelly*

*Homilist:* *The Reverend Jim Elliott*

*Verger:* *Nancy Lutsko*

*Crucifer:* *Phyllis Holland*

*Lectors:* *Patricia Marks*  
*Kevin Hiers*

*Eucharistic Ministers:* *Stefani Carroll*  
*Sheri Gravett*  
*Phyllis Holland*

*Organist:* *Sue Ellen Rumstay*

*Pianist:* *Raymond Peace*

*Ushers:* *Jerry Byrd*  
*Eric Nielsen*

You are invited to a reception in the parish hall  
immediately following the Committal.