



**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Isle of Hope**  
**August 5, 2025**

**A Celebration of the Life of**  
**J. Cliff McCurry**  
**July 8, 1948 – July 31, 2025**

**THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE TWO**

**THE RECEPTION OF THE BODY**

*The Celebrant meets the body at the door of the church and says*

With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the body of our brother Cliff for burial. Let us pray with confidence to God, the Giver of life, that he will raise him to perfection in the company of the saints.

*Silence may be kept; after which the Celebrant says*

Deliver your servant, Cliff, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set him free from every bond; that he may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us also pray for all who mourn, that they may cast their care on God, and know the consolation of his love.

*Silence may be kept; after which the Celebrant says*

Almighty God, look with pity upon the sorrows of your servants for whom we pray. Remember them, Lord, in your mercy; nourish them with patience; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon them; and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All stand while the following anthem is sung.*

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.

*The Celebrant then says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray. O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant Cliff, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from Isaiah.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58

A Reading from First Corinthians.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality,

then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand and join in singing. The hymnal is the blue book in your pew rack.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

*Just As I Am*

Hymnal #693

THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or Minister appointed reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Melanie Lemburg

*All stand.*

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

**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 PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

*Litanist:* For our brother Cliff, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

*Litanist:* Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Cliff and dry the tears of those who weep.

*People:* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Litanist:* You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*People:* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Litanist:* You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*People:* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Litanist:* You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*People:* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Litanist:* Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

*People:* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Litanist:* He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*People:* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Litanist:* 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.*

*The Celebrant concludes with the following prayer.*

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

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

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

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*In the Garden*

Soloist: Stewart Marshall

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

*All stand.*

*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.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**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 Breaking of the Bread

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

*Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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

*In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to be fed at God's table. Our ushers will invite you forward to take your place standing or kneeling at the altar rail. When it is your turn, hold your hands out open in front of you to receive the bread. When the cup of wine comes to you, help guide it to your mouth to take a sip, dip the top of the wafer into the cup, or signify that you want to abstain from drinking by crossing your arms over your chest. When you've had all you desire, return to your seat via the side steps and aisles.*

**HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

*The king of love my shepherd is*

**Hymnal #645**

### *Hymn of Promise*

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den pro - mise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

THE COMMENDATION

*The Celebrant and other ministers take their places at the body.*

*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.**

*The Celebrant, facing the body, says*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Cliff. 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 Celebrant, or the Bishop if present, may then bless the people, and a Deacon or other Minister may dismiss them, saying*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

RECESSION HYMN

*Battle hymn of the republic*

Instrumental

*Please, follow the family in procession out to the Memorial Garden for the Committal. An exit by the organ is also available. Please, bring this booklet with you.*

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.

*Then, while earth is cast into the grave, 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 Cliff, 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.**

*All who desire are invited to cast earth into the grave.*

*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.**

Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We give heartfelt thanks for the good examples of your servants, who, having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy Name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

*People* **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**



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

*Celebrant dismisses the people with these words*  
Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

*Following the service, please, join us in the parish hall for a reception.*

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#### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

*Clergy:* The Reverend Melanie Lemburg and The Reverend Colette Hammesfahr

*Crucifer:* Jennifer Calver

*Lay Eucharistic Ministers:* Jane Gilchrist and Annie Quaile

*Ushers:* Bill Franklin, Mike McCullough, Henry Minis, Bobby Minis, Hugh Pappy and Scott Tanner

*Flower guild:* Mary Hill and Annie Quaile

*Organist:* Tripp Hardee

*Soloist:* Stewart Marshall

*Altar Guild:* Jane Gilchrist, Lizann Roberts, Marie Centgraf, Judy Holland, Elizabeth Varner

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J. Cliff McCurry, 77, a well-known and respected community leader, philanthropist, and businessman, passed away peacefully at home on July, 31st.

Originally from Clayton, Georgia, Cliff was the son of Arthur James McCurry and Mary Agnes Lee McCurry. They moved to Savannah when Cliff was a toddler, and he called the city home for the rest of his remarkable life.

In 1970, Cliff married his high school sweetheart, Kathryn “Kathy” Jurelle Hooper and they were incredibly loving parents to two sons, James Clifford McCurry, Jr. and Edward Lee McCurry. The highlight of both “Big Daddy” and “Nana’s” lives was their five grandchildren James Clifford McCurry, III, Eleanor Kendall McCurry, Cannon Hill McCurry, Brinkley Kathryn McCurry, and Landry Lee McCurry. Cliff and

Kathy were long-time, devoted members of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church and gave of their time and talents to support their church family.

In addition to their legitimate family, Cliff and Kathy were “uncle” and “aunt” to an unruly and suspect group of knuckleheads who, along with their own children, regularly congregate as the Griswolds. Cliff was also a surrogate dad to a selection of now aging young men to whom he was a great mentor and cherished role model.

Growing up, Cliff attended Richard Arnold School and was a 1966 graduate of Savannah High School. With the encouragement and assistance from the late Coach Cy Wright, Cliff walked onto the basketball team at Armstrong State College, eventually earning a scholarship and letter before transferring to the University of Georgia. At UGA, he earned his BBA in risk management and insurance from the Terry College of Business and was a proud member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. From then on, his blood ran Red and Black, and he was an absolutely Damn Good Dawg.

Returning to Savannah after graduation, Cliff began working for his mentor, Nick Mamalakis, at Mercer Insurance Agency. Mr. Mamalakis was “Boss”, but so profoundly more to Cliff and his family. It was widely understood that Mr. Nick believed in Cliff’s potential, invested in him personally and professionally and set an example that Cliff sought to emulate throughout his life and career. In his honor, Cliff and Kathy established the Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leaders Program at Armstrong Atlantic State University, now Georgia Southern University, in order to share Mamalakis’ legacy and example with generations to come.

Cliff McCurry had more than 50 years of commercial insurance brokerage and risk management experience and held executive management positions with Sterling Seacrest Pritchard, Willis HRH, and Jones, Hill, & Mercer. He held the Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) professional designation and was a mentor to many within the insurance industry.

In recognition of his professional and community service, Cliff has received a number of prestigious awards, including being named a distinguished alumnus of Armstrong State University (2017), a community hero by the Southeast Georgia chapter of the American Red Cross (2013), the Terry College of Business risk management and insurance alumnus of the year (2011), induction to the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame (2019), the Southeast Georgia Leadership Forum “Leadership Award” (2021), the Elevate Savannah Community Leader Award (2024), and the Terry College of Business Distinguished Alumni Award (2025).

Cliff’s altruism was obvious, and his community involvement spanned decades. He is widely known for his willingness to put in long hours for worthy causes. His community and civic activities included serving in leadership positions on numerous local and regional not-for-profit and community service boards. He was an emeritus member of the Terry College Alumni Board and a UGA Foundation Emeritus Trustee. He was proud to have been a Past Chairman of both the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and the Savannah Economic Development Authority and deeply appreciated his involvement with the St. Joseph’s/Candler Health System Foundation and Hospital boards. Cliff also greatly enjoyed supporting younger generations through decades of involvement on the board of the Jenkins Athletic Club and the boards of Savannah Christian Preparatory School and Bethesda Academy.

Cliff is predeceased by his parents, his wife Kathy, and his son Lee. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law Jamie and Kendall, their children Ford, Eleanor, and Brinkley; and by

his daughter-in-law Melissa and her children Cannon and Landry; and by his godchildren and countless friends that were all considered family.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. A reception will immediately follow in the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Cliff's memory can be made to St. Thomas' Episcopal Church on the Isle of Hope (2 St. Thomas Avenue, Savannah, Ga 31406) or to the Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leaders Program c/o the Georgia Southern University Office of Leadership and Community Engagement (attn. Rachel West, 11935 Abercorn St., Savannah, Ga 31419).

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St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Savannah, GA 31406

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[www.stthomasioh.org](http://www.stthomasioh.org)

### **Service Times**

#### Sunday

8:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite 1 – Chapel

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 – Church

11:30 am – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 – Chapel

#### Wednesday

11:30 – Service of Healing with Holy Eucharist – Chapel

The Rt. Rev. Frank Sullivan Logue, Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr, Associate Rector  
Dionne Greenlee, Parish Administrator  
Tripp Hardee, Minister of Music  
Greg Washabaugh, Sexton  
Tara Bell, Bookkeeper  
Dianne Jones, Nursery Supervisor

**The Vestry**

Chris Conner, Senior Warden  
Lizann Roberts & David Castleberry, Co-Junior Wardens  
Mitch Green, Treasurer  
Jane Gilchrist, Clerk

Joseph Bernard	Jennifer Calver	David Castleberry
Chris Conner	Marie Centgraf	Betty Henderson
Mary Haley	Robert Hughes	Andrew Lyons
Amy Minis	Lizann Roberts	Claudia Welch