# A Service of Witness to the Resurrection

## Celebrating the Life of

## Virginia Coffin Thomas

November 24, 1926 – October 5, 2026



Saturday, November 7, 2026 – 10:00 AM

The First Presbyterian Church
110 N. Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida

## The Celebration of Worship

Voluntary

Sentences of Scripture, Call to Worship, and Prayer

*Hymn 236 The Strife is O'er PALESTRINA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, before you our hearts are open, and from you no secrets are hidden. We bring to you now our shame and sorrow for our sins. We have forgotten that our life is from you and unto you. We have neither sought nor done your will. We have not been truthful in our hearts, in our speech, in our lives. We have not loved as we ought to love. Help us, and heal us, raising us from our sins into a better life, that we may end our days in peace, trusting in your kindness unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, Christ who died for us, who rose for us, who reigns at God's right hand and prays for us.

**Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Response Hymn 583 Gloria, Gloria GLORIA(TAIZE)

*Sung once in unison, twice in a round (A=North, B=South)*

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:6-13

Psalter Psalm 121

Anthem The Lord is My Shepherd from *Requiem* John Rutter

*The Lord is my shepherd: Therefore, I can lack nothing.*
*He shall feed me in a green pasture and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.*
*He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the 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 comfort me.*
*Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me.*
*Thou has anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.*
*But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.*
*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Epistle Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel Lesson John 11:25-26

*Hymn God is My Strong Salvation MEIN EIN LEBEN




Sermon

*Affirmation of Faith *from the Heidelberg Catechism*

What is your only comfort in life and death?

**That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

*Hymn 620 Praise, My Soul the King of Heaven LAUDA ANIMA

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 643 Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANEKT ALLE GOTT

*Commendation

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction — Gaelic Blessing — John Rutter

*Deep peace of the running wave to you.*
*Deep peace of the flowing air to you.*
*Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.*
*Deep peace of the shining stars to you.*
*Deep peace of the gentle night to you.*
*Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.*
*Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.*
*Deep peace of Christ to you.*

*Voluntary

Following the voluntary, all are invited to proceed to the columbarium in the courtyard for the committal service.
A reception will follow in the Westminster Room.

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**Participating in the Service:**

The Rev. Mark Phillips
The Rev. Brant Copeland
Dr. Bryan Stenson, Director of Music
Victoria Coey, Organist

Chris Andrews, grandson
Andrew Thomas, grandson
Kevin Gordon, grandson
Julia Knox, granddaughter

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**From Virginia:**

*I give thanks for Christian parents and relatives who shared their faith; for the church, particularly the Presbyterian Church, its worship, education, and challenge to responsible stewardship; for Davis and marriage; for the five children God gave us; for friends who have loved and supported us; for guidance in prayer at the Bon Secours Retreat Center; for books, for gardens, for teachers, for music, for the beach, for travel, for the call to me to be a disciples of Jesus Christ and for the assurance that I belong to God through Him.*

*I don't think much about Heaven … I expect to be reunited with Davis and other loved ones in the love and worship of God. I have no idea what Heaven is like, but since God thought up pets and children and trees and camellias and St. George Island, I am quite confident whatever is beyond time and space will be satisfactory.*

# The Strife Is O'er 236

*Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)*




The Latin text from which this hymn has been translated may well be older than its earliest printing in a 17th-century collection published in Cologne. It is set to an adaptation of a portion of the Gloria Patri section from a 16th-century choral version of the Magnificat.

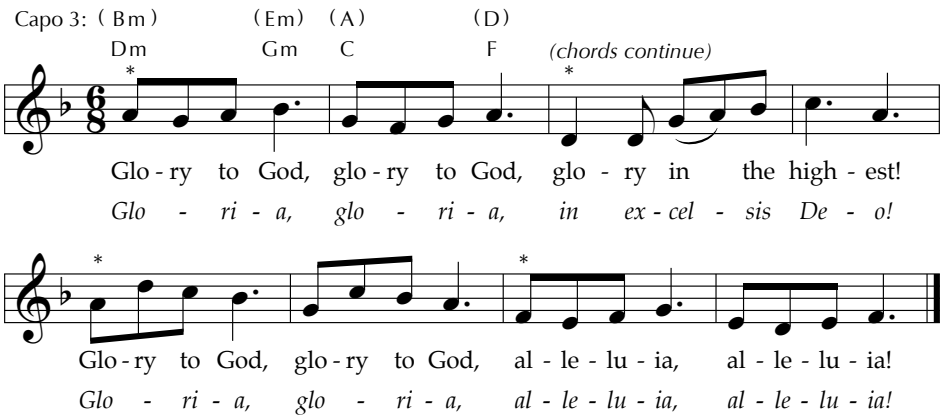
TEXT: Latin hymn, c. 1695; trans. Francis Pott, 1861
MUSIC: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1591; adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861

VICTORY
8.8.8 with alleluias

# Glory to God

## *Gloria, gloria*






**May be sung as a canon.*

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979
*Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)*

GLORIA (Taizé)

# 620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

(Psalm 103)




This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

TEXT: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834, alt.
MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

LAUDA ANIMA
8.7.8.7.8.7

# 643 Now Thank We All Our God




Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

TEXT: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.
MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6