

## **CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF REV. WILLIAM BRUCE WILDER**

12 March 2022, 11 a.m.

Rev. Scottie Burkhalter, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. W. Bruce Wilder, Jr., Guest Preacher

### **PRELUDE**

*The Prelude signals a time of silent prayer and reflection.*

Medley of Beloved Hymns, Laura Reames, Organist

*(We stand)*

### **WORDS OF COMFORT: JOHN 10:27-29**

Pastor Scottie

<sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.

### **THE GATHERING HYMN**

*Borning Cry*

**ELW No. 732**

### **OPENING DIALOGUE**

**P** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Eternal and most loving Father, we remember before you our brother, Bruce Wilder. We thank you for lending him to us to know and to love as a companion during our journey here. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn and give us eyes to see that the gate to eternal life will be open for us so that we may continue our pilgrimage here in strong confidence until by your call we are reunited with those who have gone before us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

*(We sit)*

## **FIRST READING: PSALM 121: 1-8**

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup>He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup>The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4: 7-8**

<sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

### **HYMN**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**ELW No. 803**

### **REMEMBRANCES**

Bruce, Shannon, and Mark Wilder

*(We stand)*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 14: 1-7**

Rev. Dr. W. Bruce Wilder, Jr

<sup>1</sup>Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>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? <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*(We sit.)*

## **THE SERMON**

Rev. Dr. W. Bruce Wilder, Jr.

*(We stand)*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

P We have been made God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

*(We sit)*

QUARTET

**"CROSSWISE"**

Calvary Baptist Church

*Crimson River*

*I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*

*(We stand)*

## HOLY COMMUNION – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

*(Remain standing for the invitation.)*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*(We sit.)*

### HYMNS AT THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

**Anthem: "Ancient Words" (choir)**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

*O Living Bread from Heaven*

**ELW No. 471**

**ELW No. 542**

*(We stand.)*

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in His grace.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

**C Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquets. Grant that your 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, thru your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### HYMN

*How Great Thou Art*

**ELW No. 856**

P Lord, now let your servant go in peace according to your Word. Into your hands, Lord, we commend your servant, William Bruce Wilder Sr., 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 all the saints.

### DISMISSAL

P Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### CLOSING HYMN:

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

**ELW No. 537**

### POSTLUDE

*Blessed Assurance*

*Lift High the Cross*

**\*\*Please Join Us for Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall\*\*  
(Downstairs with elevator access)**

Patti's and Bruce's Family would like to thank you so much for helping us celebrate the life of this brother in Christ who was loved by, and is missed, by so many.

Altar flowers are given by the HTLC choir in loving memory of Bruce whose voice continues to be missed by all of us. His love for music inspired numerous choir rehearsals.

Pastor: Rev. Scottie Burkhalter

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. W. Bruce Wilder, Jr.

Organist: Laura Reames

Guest Quartet: Mikel Caywood, Lemuel Mixon, Rick Hill, Todd Caywood  
Calvary Baptist Church, Kingsport

Guest Pianist: Dottie Slaughter

Guest Pianist: Lemuel Mixon

Communion Assistant: Sarah Wright

## **Col (Ret) W. Bruce Wilder**

### **(Obituary)**

It is with great sadness in our hearts, but the joy and comfort of our faith, that we announce the passing of Col. (Ret) W. Bruce Wilder into a new life on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at Holston Valley Medical Center. Bruce was born in Page, KY in a log house built by his father. They moved to Kingsport, TN, in his early teens and he was a 1955 graduate of Dobyons-Bennett High School where his photo can be found in the Hall of Fame. He began his college years at Georgia Tech on a basketball scholarship but transferred to Davidson College where he was also blessed to receive a basketball scholarship. Following graduation and with a young son and wife, Bruce went on active duty in the Army where he spent 28 years flying in service to his country which included two combat tours in Vietnam flying attack helicopters. For his actions he received the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross and 2 Air Medal with V Device. He retired in 1987 after serving as Director of Army Aviation Health and Safety.

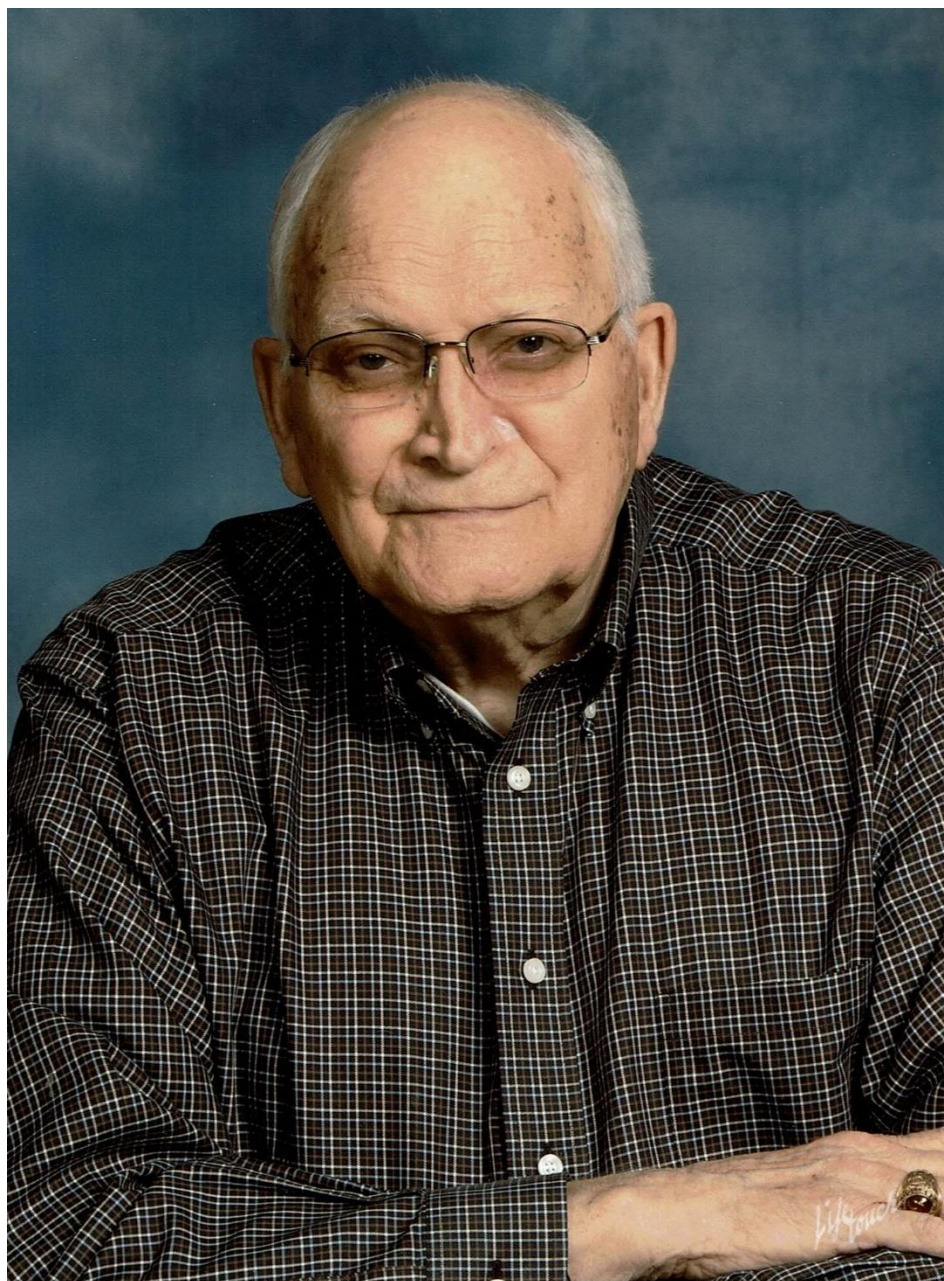
Following retirement, Bruce attended Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary and upon ordination accepted a call to become the Mission Developer of what is today the growing and vibrant Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Haymarket, VA. His last call prior to full retirement was as senior pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, FL. Bruce never met a stranger and folks were drawn to him everywhere he went. He loved to travel, play card games and work on his book for his boys! He was a very proud recipient of more than one Paul Harris Award and past president of his Kingsport Rotary Club. From his children (biological or step) through 26 grands and 24 ½ great-grands who called him 'granddad', he was beloved. We were truly blessed to have been allowed to share his walk. Peace my sweet Bruce....we love you to the moon and back.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Patricia Wright Patten Wilder; sons, W. Bruce Jr. (Kirsten), R. Shannon, and Mark A. (Christy) Wilder; stepsons, George (Donna), Michael, Joel (Betsy), Steven (Tracey), and Mark Patten; his precious sisters, Barbara Gillespie and Jean (Gerald) Winstead; and many very special nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be planned for March 2022 to honor what would be his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In lieu of flowers, contributions would be gratefully recognized to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, [www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate), or to the Veterans organization of your choice.

Please visit us at <http://www.hamlettdobson.com> to leave an online condolence for the family.





March 12, 2022  
***Celebration of Life of Bruce Wilder***

Preludes

Sweet Hour of Prayer, Take My Life, O Master Let Me Walk with You, My Hope is Built on Nothing Less, My Faith Looks  
Up to Thee, Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross  
Beautiful Savior, He Leadeth Me, A Mighty Fortress, The Old Rugged Cross  
Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Amazing Grace  
Songs are in Public Domain

Borning Cry

Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Song is in Public Domain

Shall We Gather at the River, Song is in Public Domain

I Know Who Holds Tomorrow, CCLI Song # 17982

Words and Music: Ira Stanphill

© 1950 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

Ancient Words, CCLI Song # 2986399

Words and Music: Lynn DeShazo

© 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Let Us Break Bread Together, Song is in Public Domain

O Living Bread from Heaven, Song is in Public Domain

How Great Thou Art

Text: Carl G Boberg, Music: Swedish Folk Music, Adapt; Stuart K Hine

Text and music © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust. USA print rights administered by Hope Publishing

On Our Way Rejoicing, Song is in Public Domain

Blessed Assurance, Song is in Public Domain

Lift High the Cross

Text: George W Kitchin, rev. Michael R. Newholt

Music: Sydney H Nicholson

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Copyrighted lyrics and/or music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-702264,  
CCLI license # 1667989 and Augsburg license #SASOO3588  
All rights reserved as appropriate