

**MEMORIAL SERVICE IN CELEBRATION
OF THE LIFE OF MICHAEL RANDOLPH BLOUNT
SEPTEMBER 5, 2024**



**MICHAEL RANDOLPH BLOUNT
FEBRUARY 4, 1949 — AUGUST 27, 2024**

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
201 E. CLAY ST.
WERT COLUMBIA, TEXAS**

The Burial of the Dead

(From the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church)

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all 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 one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 507

The Prelude

Susan Graham, Organist

All stand while the following anthems are 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.

Collect for Burial *(standing)*

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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, Michael, 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.**



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, _____
 2 They loved their Lord so _____ dear, so dear, and _____
 3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are



pa - tient and brave and true, who _____ toiled and _____ fought and _____
 his love _____ made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for _____
 hund - reds of thou - sands still, the _____ world is _____ bright with the



lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And _____
 Je - sus' sake, the _____ whole of their good lives long. And _____
 joy - ous saints who _____ love to do Je - sus' will. You can



one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -
 one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was _____ slain
 meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,



herd - ess on the _____ green: they were all of them saints of _____
 by a fierce wild _____ beast; and there's not an - y rea - son -
 or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of _____ God are just



God— and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.
 folk like _____ me, and I mean to be one too.

The Celebrant continues

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with Mike's family 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.**

Old Testament Lesson

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me* *Read in unison*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.**
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**
- 3 He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.**
- 4 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, they comfort me.**
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

New Testament Lesson

Revelation 21: 2-7

And I saw the holy city, the 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, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of several systems of staves with lyrics underneath. The first system includes a 'Descant' section. The second system is the 'Refrain'. The third system includes a '1-4' section and a 'Final Ending'. The fourth system contains four numbered verses. The fifth system is labeled 'Repeat Refrain'.

Descant
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Refrain
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

1-4 *Final Ending*
Praise to his Name. Name.
Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

Repeat Refrain
He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
Now we shall live for ev - er.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

All standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel

John 14:1-6

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."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Paul Wehner

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

The Apostles Creed

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 arose 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 *(remain standing)*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

For our brother, Mike, 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 Mike 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 Mike eternal life. **Hear us, Lord**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother Mike 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**

Mike 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 Mike; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. **Hear us, Lord**

Presider continues

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

Father of all, we pray to you for Mike, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Commendation

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant, Mike, with your saints,

People **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.

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

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

Blessing

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. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed.**

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

The Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace

Hymn # 671

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Postlude

Susan Graham, Organist

The congregation is invited to follow the family to the graveside at Old Columbia Cemetery for interment of the body. The cemetery is two blocks south at the dead end of 16th street. Weather permitting, most of us will walk behind the hearse. If you choose to drive, please follow safely behind our walkers. After the Committal, please join the family back in the Parish Hall at St. Mary's to eat some delicious barbeque and to share your favorite stories about Mike with them. You may also choose to wait in the Parish Hall for our return

The Committal

Consecration of the final resting place

O God, whose blessed Son was laid in a sepulcher in the garden: Bless, we pray, this grave, and grant that he whose body is to be buried here may dwell with Christ in paradise, and may come to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Minister then says the following anthem

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.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Mike, 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.**

Minister The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Minister Let us pray.

Minister 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.

The Minister continues

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. **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 you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of Mike and all 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.**

Minister Rest eternal grant to Mike, O Lord:

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

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

The Minister dismisses the people with these words

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Minister Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Minister

The Rev. Paul Wehner

Acolyte

Jasey Hussey

Readers

Reagan Blount, Braylee Schill, Hannah Hussey

Music

Susan Graham, Organist

Pallbearers

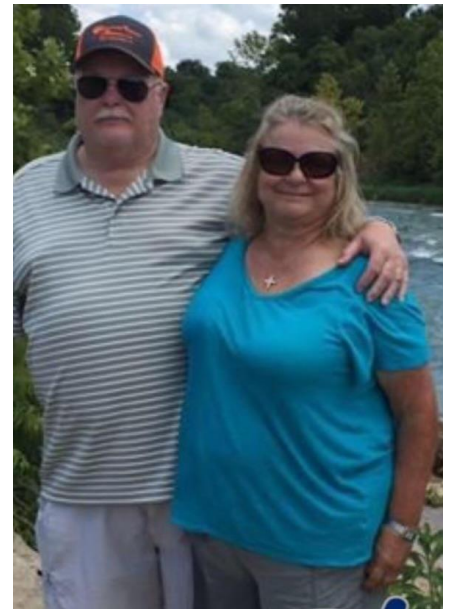
Justin Hussey, Brayze Schill

Adam Schill, Kohen Blount, Hunter Weisinger

Honorary Pallbearers

Travis Landon, Johnny Landon

*The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of Mike by his family.*





Michael Randolph Blount

February 4, 1949 — August 27, 2024

Michael Randolph Blount, 75, of West Columbia, Texas went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. He was born in Houston on February 4, 1949, to the late Ronald and Joyce Blount. After Graduating from High School, Mike joined the Army, where he proudly served in Vietnam from 1967-1970.

After returning from war, he married Charlotte Blount, who he remained married to for 50 years until her passing. Mike was an avid football fan and a faithful follower of Texas High School Football, cheering on Splendora (where he was a standout player), Hallettsville, West Columbia, and wherever R.M. was coaching at the time. He loved the outdoors, enjoyed deer hunting, and driving the backroads. Mike was known for his quick wit and keen sense of humor.

He is preceded in death by his parents Ronald and Joyce Blount, his loving wife Charlotte Blount, sister Kathy Blount, great granddaughter Ashlie Landon. He is survived by his children Brandi Blount (Mike Wallace), Jennifer (Adam) Schill, and R.M. (Michelle) Blount; his grandchildren Justin (Hannah) Hussey, Megan (Michael) Landon, Hunter Weisinger (Brooke Lariz), Brayze Schill, Braylee Schill, Reagan Blount, and Kohen Blount; five great grandchildren; his brothers David (Kathy) and Kenneth (Jan) Blount and many other relatives and friends.

A visitation with friends and loved ones will be Wednesday, September 4, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the chapel of C.T. Baker & Sons Funeral Home in West Columbia.

Funeral services will be Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 201 E Clay St., in West Columbia, with The Reverend Paul Wehner officiating. Interment will follow in Old Columbia Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Justin Hussey, Brayze Schill, Kohen Blount, Hunter Weisinger, and Adam Schill. Honorary Pallbearers Travis and Johnny Landon

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church Memorial Fund.