



**THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

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**A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION**

**IN MEMORY OF**

**MARY H. BRATTON**

**JUNE 6, 1933 – FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

PRELUDE

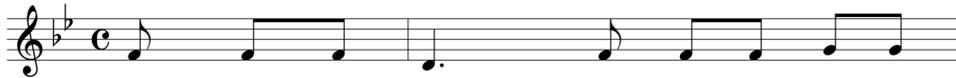
OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

♣ HYMN 625

*How Great Thou Art*

HOW GREAT THOU ART



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some  
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I  
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not  
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-



won-der Con-sid-er all the works thy hands have  
 wan-der And hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the  
 spar-ing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it  
 ma-tion And take me home, what joy shall fill my



made, I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing  
 trees, When I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
 in That on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly  
 heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, Thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played!  
 gran-deur And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze,  
 bear-ing, He bled and died to take a-way my sin!  
 ra-tion And there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: How great thou



art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!

Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989  
 Tune: HOW GREAT THOU ART, 11 10 11 10 with refrain; Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989  
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✠ PRAYER

Eternal God,  
our strength and our comfort,  
our hope and our help,  
your love cares for us in life  
and watches over us in death.  
We praise you for the great company  
of all those who have kept the faith,  
finished their race,  
and who now rest from their labor.  
Especially we thank you for Mary,  
whom you have now received into your presence.  
We are grateful for all she gave us,  
for the memories that will abide with us,  
and for the assurance that she lives forever  
in the peace and joy of your unending love.  
Take from us now our regrets and sorrows,  
and grant us your grace, we pray,  
that as we face the mystery of death  
we may see the light of eternity,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*silent prayer*

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✠ DECLARATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 121  
Psalm 139:1-14  
Psalm 30:4-5  
Psalm 73:25-26  
Romans 8:38-39  
John 14:25-27

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the  
 2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so  
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Through the

3  
 dew is still on the ros - es, And the voice I hear, Fall - ing  
 sweet the birds hush their sing - ing, And the mel - o - dy That He  
 night a - round me be fall - ing, But He bids me go; Thro' the

6 Refrain  
 on my ear, the Son of God dis - clos - es. And He  
 gave to me, With - in my heart is ring - ing. And He  
 voice of woe His voice to me is call - ing.

9  
 walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own;— And the

13  
 joy we share as we tar - ry there, Non oth - er has ev - er — known.

♣ THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
 Maker of heaven and earth.  
 And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, dead, and buried;  
 he descended into hell;  
 the third day he rose again from the dead;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
 the holy catholic Church;  
 the communion of saints;  
 the forgiveness of sins;  
 the resurrection of the body;  
 and the life everlasting.  
 Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;  
for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

♠ HYMN 826

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim  
till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

*Fine*

Verses

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.  
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

*to Refrain*

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

✠ **COMMENDATION**

✠ **BLESSING**

✠ **RECESSIONAL**

*Following the service, everyone is invited to a reception  
in the Gathering Area adjacent to the Sanctuary.*

**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster

Rev. Omar Rouchon

Keith Weber, Organist



MARY LEDELE HARALSON was born in Fort Payne, Alabama on the 3rd of June 1933, to Judge William Jeff and LeDelle Hawkins Haralson. She died peacefully at home on Monday, the 12th of February, at 90 years of age.

Mary graduated from DeKalb County High School and attended The Gulf Park College for Women in Gulfport, Mississippi, for her freshman year of college. She transferred to The University of Alabama as a sophomore, pledging Alpha Gamma Delta. Named Outstanding Pledge, she was awarded a diamond pin (!) but what she truly treasured were the lifelong friends she made and kept.

Upon graduation in 1955, Mary moved to Atlanta for a job with Eastern Airlines. She happily transferred to Birmingham a year later and lived with her dear friend Coleman Cross in The Highland Towers. It was there on a July day in 1958 that she met Jim Bratton in the elevator. By November they were engaged. The 7th of February 1959 was bright and crisp; it was the perfect day for a high noon wedding at The First Presbyterian Church of Fort Payne.

Settling in Birmingham, Jim pursued forming a new company. He and Mary welcomed twin daughters Elizabeth and Carrie in June of 1960. Three months later they moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where Jim and his partner founded Nashville Steel Corporation. Their young family resided in Nashville welcoming a son, John in 1965 and another daughter Mary Grace in 1971. Over their twelve years in Nashville, Mary and Jim were members at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Richland Country Club. Mary was also active in the Alpha Gamma Delta Nashville Alumnae Club. She handled being the mother of four with grace and laughter.

In August of 1972 business opportunities beckoned, and Mary and Jim moved their family to Texas. Texas, and Houston in particular, agreed with Mary. She loved her Tynewood neighbors, who also became lifelong friends. She loved hot weather, Mexican food, and shopping trips to Laredo. She loved the beach and their house in Galveston. She played tennis at the Houston Racquet Club, volunteered with the Houston Ballet Guild, and enjoyed lectures at The Women's Institute. Mary was a dedicated supporter of Child Advocates. In 2007 she was the honoree of Child Advocates Angels of Hope Luncheon.

Mary and Jim came to St. Philip Presbyterian Church in 1974 and made this open and caring congregation their church home. She served as a Ruling Elder, as President of the Women of the Church, and in the early 2000's she was the driving force behind a Bible study that still meets weekly. Even as her health declined she was not fearful, but faithful.

Mary was predeceased by her parents and her husband, James Bratton. She is survived by her four children: Elizabeth Bratton (Michael King) and her children Jeff, Liz (Clint Brown) and Michael (Samantha Derrett); Carrie Pepi, her husband Al, and their three sons George (Krissy Pepi), Bennett (Elizabeth Aksamit) and Wallace (Rachael Chang); John Bratton, his wife Kelly Fox, and their two children Grayson and Elizabeth; and Mary Grace Carter, her husband David, and their two children Eleanor and Jack. She is also survived by her brother Judge William Wallace Haralson and his wife Ann, their two daughters Susanna Campbell and Kathryn Norris and their families.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the kindness and support of Mary's friends over this last year. So many new friends were made at the Hallmark, her home since 2019. The kindness and support of the Hallmark staff has been greatly appreciated by her family. We also want to thank her wonderful caregivers (Soyla, Sharon, Joanise, Kimberly, Judith, Nargis, and Ijeoma) for their dignified care and attention.

