



**STEPHEN MITFORD GOODSON**

**1948 - 2018**



**Memorial Service**

Our Lord Jesus Christ declared:

***"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies."*** John 11:25-26

We are gathered here today to celebrate the life and testimony of Stephen Mitford Goodson and to mourn our loss. We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss. May God search our hearts, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope and in death Resurrection.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

***"I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** Romans 8:38-39

### **Prayer:**

God of grace and glory, we remember before You this day, our brother Stephen Mitford Goodson. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In Your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our pilgrimage of discipleship on earth, until, by Your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **HYMN: Abide with Me**

***"...you also will abide in the Son and in the Father."*** 1 John 2:24

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word;  
but as 'Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,  
familiar, condescending, patient, free.  
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.
4. Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
but kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,  
tears for all woes, a heart for every plea –  
come, Friend of sinners and thus abide with me.

5. Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;  
and, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,  
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,  
on to the close, O Lord, abide with me.
6. I need Thy presence every passing hour.  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
7. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.
8. Hold Thou Thy Cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Henry F. Lyte – 1847

### **Tributes, Song items and Eulogies:**

#### **Responsive Congregational Prayer:**

For Stephen Mitford Goodson, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ Who said,  
***"I am the Resurrection and the Life."***

Lord, You consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who  
mourn and dry the tears of those who weep.

**Hear us, Lord.**

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, Your friend; comfort us now in our sorrow.

**Hear us, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord.**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys  
of Heaven.

**Hear us, Lord.**

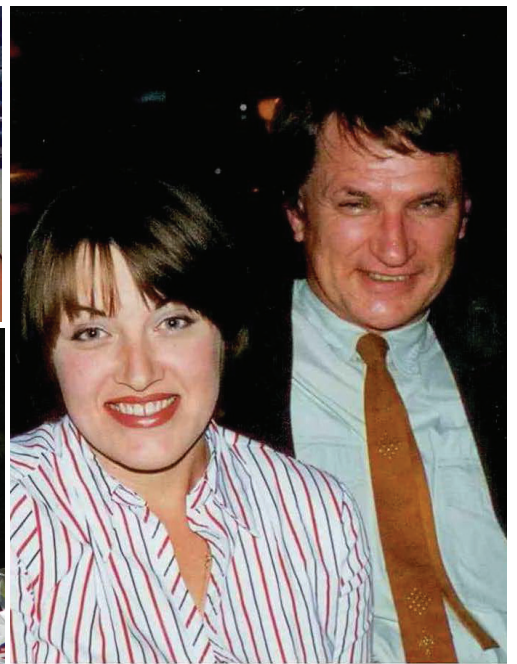
Our brother was washed in baptism; give him fellowship with all Your saints.

**Hear us, Lord.**

He was nourished with Your Body and Blood in the Lord's Supper;  
grant him a place at Your table in Your Heavenly Kingdom.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother;  
let our Faith be our consolation and eternal life our hope. **Amen.**





## **Scriptural Readings:**

Let us Hear the Word of God:

### **A Psalm of David:**

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.*

*He makes me lie down in green pastures,*

*He leads me beside quiet waters.*

*He restores my soul.*

*He guides me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.*

*Even though I walk*

*through the valley of the shadow of death.*

*I will fear no evil, for You are with me;*

*Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me*

*in the presence of my enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,*

*and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.*

Psalm 23

**"...He will swallow up death forever and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces... And it will be said in that day: 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'" Isaiah 25:6-9**

**"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!' The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord." Lamentations 3:22-26**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ declared:**

**"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of prison doors to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified." Isaiah 61:1-3**

**Jesus said: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know and the way you know. 'Lord, we do not know where You are going and how can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" John 14:1-6**

## HYMN: Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me

***“That Rock was Christ.”*** 1 Corinthians 10:4

- 1: Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the Blood,  
from Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
cleanse me from its guilt and power
- 2: Not the labours of my hands,  
can fulfil Thy Law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone,  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
- 3: Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the Cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress,  
helpless, look to Thee for grace,  
Foul, I to the Fountain fly,  
wash me Saviour or I die.
- 4: While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death;  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see Thee on Thy Judgement Throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus Toplady - 1776

**Sermon:** Dr. Peter Hammond

Let us unite our hearts in prayer:

**Prayer:**

Our loving heavenly Father, You Who did not spare Your beloved only Son our Lord Jesus Christ, but gave Him to redeem us by His death on the Cross; comfort and support us who mourn here before You. Let us not doubt Your love but bring us through our sorrow to a fuller knowledge of Your Divine wisdom and purpose and that all things work together for the good of those who love You and are called according to Your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your heart went out to the widow of Nain who had lost her only son and You restored him to her; You were deeply moved by the grief of those who mourned over Lazarus' death and You wept and restored him to life; have compassion on Your servants in our loss and grief. Be to us a very present help in trouble, give us eyes of faith that we may see that the eternal God is our refuge and that underneath are the everlasting arms; we ask it in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

**The Committal:**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, with You are the souls of all who have died in the Faith of Christ, here we commit the body of our dear brother Stephen, earth to earth, dust to dust, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ Who will transform our lowly bodies, that they may be like His glorious Body, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 Stephen and give him peace. **Amen.**

Let us say **The Grace** together:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all forevermore. Amen.**

## HYMN: O God, our Help in Ages Past

***“Lord, You have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.”*** Psalm 90:1

- 1: O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.
- 2: Under the shadow of Your throne,  
Your saints have dwelt secure,  
sufficient is Your arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.
- 3: Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting You are God,  
to endless years the same.
- 4: A thousand ages in Your sight,  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night,  
before the rising sun.
- 5: The busy tribes of flesh and blood,  
with all their lives and cares,  
are carried downward by Your flood,  
and lost in foll’wing years.
- 6: Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all its sons away,  
they fly forgotten, as a dream,  
dies at the opening day.
- 7: O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
O be our Guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal Home.



Isaac Watts – 1719  
(Based on Psalm 90)

### **The Benediction:**

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; through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**