

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection  
and  
Thanksgiving for the Life  
of  
James Edwin Atwood  
November 3, 1934 - June 26, 2020



“Well done, good and faithful servant.  
Enter into the joy of the Lord.”

**St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Wilmington, North Carolina**

The Rev. Derek Macleod  
Senior Pastor

July 25, 2020  
11 AM

**Prelude**

**Special Music**

*Ode to Joy*

Violinist - Roxana Boyd  
Pianist - Ellen Atwood

**Greeting** - Derek Macleod

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

The Rev. Roxana Atwood  
Presbyterian Minister, Honorably Retired

**Special Music** - *At the River* arr. Aaron Copland

SGM Bob McDonald  
US Army Chorus

**Opening Sentences**

**Prayer**

**Hymn 223:** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*  
Verses 1 & 4

**Call to Confession**

**Confession:** (Psalm 130:1-6)

**Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!  
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.  
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;  
My soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Hymn 291** - *O God of Earth and Altar*

**Remembrances**

Family:

Atwood Boyd  
Harry Atwood  
Mebane Boyd  
Ellen Atwood - *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

Colleagues:

The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson  
Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church USA

Mr. Josh Horwitz  
Executive Director, Coalition To Stop Gun Violence

## **Prayer for Illumination and Scripture**

Oliver Atwood and Roxana Boyd

Isaiah 40:28-31; Isaiah 52:7a; Romans 8:38-39;  
Romans 10:15; II Corinthians 5:1; II Timothy 4:7-8;  
Revelation 21:1-4; Matthew 5:9

## **Sermon**

The Rev. John Wimberly

Presbyterian Minister, Honorably Retired

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Hymn 724 - *O Jesus, I Have Promised* Vs. 1 & 4

## **Pastoral Prayer**

The Rev. Thomas Tate

Presbyterian Minister, Honorably Retired

## **Commendation** - Derek Macleod

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,  
we commend your servant Jim.  
Acknowledge, we humbly pray,  
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.

**Hymn 686** - *God of Our Life*

## **Blessing**

**Postlude** - *For All the Saints*

## **Burial will follow at Oakdale Cemetery**

The family is deeply grateful to the Rev. Derek Macleod, organist Mark Gansor, communications director Matt Talley, and ushers at St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church for making it possible for us to worship here today and for sharing this service across the country.

## **One More Story From Jim**

Everyone in Jim's family, Jim included, were talented musically, though neither he nor his father participated in music formally. Nevertheless, Jim learned to love music from his family and had an excellent ear and enjoyed all kinds of music. He liked to tell this story:

*"In October of 1967, a guide was showing me around the Yong Nak Presbyterian Church in Seoul, Korea, that was then the largest Presbyterian Church in the world. As we walked through the basement I heard a piano and some singing which was decidedly off key. I thought to myself, 'I've never heard such terrible music.' I inquired about the music and the guide replied, 'Come with me. I'll show you where it's coming from.' He opened a door to a special class for hearing impaired church members who were standing around the piano singing hymns of praise to God. The longer I listened, the more pleasing the music became. Of one thing I have no doubt. It was beautiful music to Almighty God who listens regularly to the best of the heavenly choirs."*

The quotes under each hymn are Jim's comments on why these hymns were significant in his journey of faith.

Hymn Glory to God # 223

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Vs. 1 & 4

*"In a youth group in 1951, our leader explained the meaning of this hymn. It was the first time I really understood the significance of the Christian faith."*

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which  
the prince of glory died  
my richest gain I count but loss  
and pour contempt on all my pride.
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing so divine  
demands my soul my life my all.

Hymn The Presbyterian Hymnal # 291

*O God of Earth and Altar*

*"One of the most powerful hymns which I often chose as the closing hymn for worship."*

1. O God of earth and altar  
bow down and hear our cry;  
our earthly rulers falter  
our people drift and die.  
The walls of gold entomb us  
the swords of scorn divide;  
take not your thunder from us  
but take away our pride.
2. From all that terror teaches  
from lies of pen and voice  
from all the easy speeches,  
that make our hearts rejoice,  
from sale and profanation,  
of honor and the sword,  
from sleep and from damnation,  
deliver us, good Lord!
3. Awaken us to action,  
and forge us into one,  
defying sect and faction,  
O God, your will be done!  
Oppressive systems snare us;  
our apathies increase.  
Great God, in mercy spare us,  
for justice and for peace!

Hymn Glory to God # 724

*O Jesus, I Have Promised* Vs. 1 & 4

*“To accompany my first sermon at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA in 1958, I chose this hymn.”*

1. O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.
  
4. O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be.  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end.  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.

Hymn Glory to God # 686

*God of our Life*

*“On May 23, 1959, Roxana and I exchanged wedding vows and the congregation sang this hymn.”*

1. God of our life,  
through all the circling years,  
we trust in thee.  
In all the past,  
through all our hopes and fears,  
thy hand we see.  
With each new day,  
when morning lifts the veil,  
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.
  
2. God of the past,  
our times are in thy hand, with us abide.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land.  
Be thou our guide.  
With thee to bless,  
the darkness shines as light,  
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.
  
3. God of the coming years,  
through paths unknown, we follow thee.  
When we are strong,  
Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be.  
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,  
our hearts true home  
when all our years have sped.