

Bruce Gray Agee
December 23, 1946 - July 18, 2023



*In Loving
Memory*

*Service of Resurrection Hope
With Holy Communion
Thursday July 27, 2023*

Bruce Gray Agee

Husband, Father, Grandfather (Pops)

“A kind soul who never said an unkind word about anyone.”

Sunrise December 23, 1946 - Sunset July 18, 2023

Bruce Gray Agee, 76, of Clinton, MD passed away in his sleep from heart disease on July 18, 2023. He showed much courage and hope right until the end.

Bruce was born December 23, 1946 in Roanoke, VA to the late Macy Moyer Agee and Virginia Lee Gray Arnold. He spent decades on the water working as a heavy machine operator in marine construction. He was known for being the best riprap engineer...placing each stone in the perfect place to leave the tops smooth and the areas protected.

Many times he “retired” only to find himself back on the job! He was a hard-working man and thought others should hold that standard. When he started having issues in October 2022, he could no longer do the work he loved.

In addition to his parents, Bruce was preceded in death by brothers Forrest Agee, Jeff Arnold and David Agee. Bruce is survived by his loving wife, Kristine M. Easley; his brother Chris Arnold (Gaynor); his children Michelle Agee Collett (Don), Bryan Agee and Cheryl Sullivan; three grandchildren Brendon Agee (Clearwater, Florida), Sophie Collett (Edgewater, Maryland) and Ryan Sullivan (Arlington, Virginia) and many nieces and nephews.

Bruce was a creature of habit and thrived on routine. He started the day by watching Channel 4 for the daily news, then the Today Show for a bit of entertainment. Each day he challenged himself to Wordle with his wife...striving to guess the word by the second try and sometimes succeeding!

Friday mornings were spent with friends from Hope Lutheran Church at the IHOP. And, of course he didn't miss church on Sundays (whether in person or live stream). He loved his weekly Horseshoe game when in season at the Elks Lodge in Kent Island too.

He and Kristine's favorite place to eat was at the Texas Ribs & BBQ around the corner from their home. They even saved a "special" table closest to the Keno screen so he could see the numbers. This place was his "Cheers"...where everyone knew his name.

Bruce loved going on vacations and enjoyed many with his wife, and especially his son. From Aruba to Turks & Caicos to Costa Rica to the Florida Keys, he liked being near the water...just like his work.

Everyone knew Bruce as a kind soul who never said an unkind word about anyone. In his own words, he "suffers from being too kind-hearted." He never complained...and he always looked out for others.

Whether you knew him as Bruce, Grandpa or Pops, he loved you dearly. And right now, he's looking down on us saying "Shoooooot...I'll be waiting for you when you get here."



GATHERING

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship.

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, proclaim Christ crucified and risen, remember our brother Bruce before God, give thanks for his life, commend him to our merciful redeemer, and comfort one another in our grief.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

People: **This slight momentary affliction is preparing us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.**

GATHERING HYMN – “Just As I Am” (ELW 592)

Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

LITANY

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Pastor: Know that the Lord is God! It is He that made us, and we are His.

People: **We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

Pastor: For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever.

People: **And His faithfulness to all generations.**

Pastor: Let us pray,

People: **O God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask and our ignorance in asking. Please give us your grace now that as we shrink before the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity. Please speak to us again about your solemn message of life and death. Please help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living and dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

READINGS

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Kevin Chen

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Psalm 23 – Sophia Chen

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. ²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. ³You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake. ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:3-11– Pastor Eric Faret

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Pastor Eric Faret

HYMN OF THE DAY - "How Great Thou Art" (ELW 856)

The assembly rises.

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my 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!"

Refrain



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: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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APOSTLES' CREED

We profess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*Greet one another in the manner that is most comfortable for you.
The assembly is seated.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

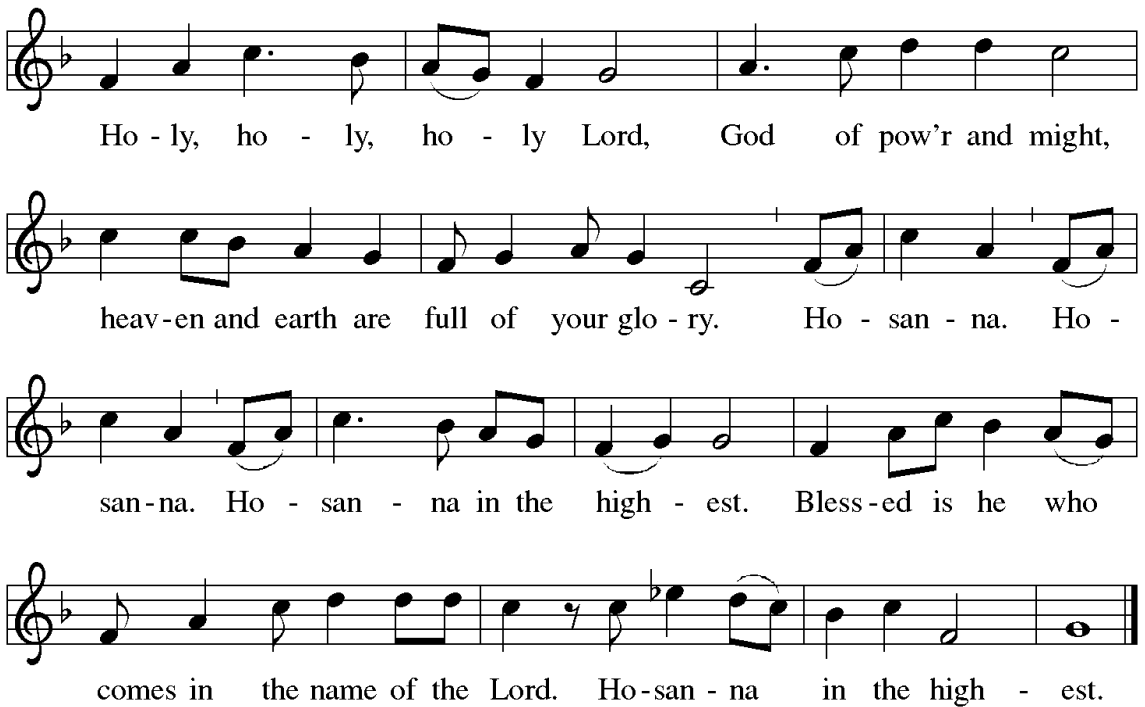
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, and in whom our hope of resurrection dawns. The sting of death has been removed by the glorious promise of his risen life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to boldly pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Hope practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table believing that in the bread and wine we truly receive the Lord's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Both wine and grape juice are available. Hope uses wheat free, nut free, and gluten free bread, but full of Jesus!

HYMN BEFORE COMMUNION – “Lamb Of God” (ELW 146)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace." The word "grant" is underlined in the original image.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN - “Amazing Grace” (ELW 779)

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



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



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



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

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

SOLO

Goin' Home – Soloist Joe Richter

COMMUNION BLESSING

The assembly stands.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheryl Sullivan

CELEBRATION OF LIFE – Remembering Bruce Agee

Steve Seaquist

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Bruce to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Bruce.

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.

BENEDICTION

May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us and be gracious to us. May God look on us with favor and + give us peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING HYMN – “Jesus Loves Me” (ELW 595)

Jesus Loves Me!

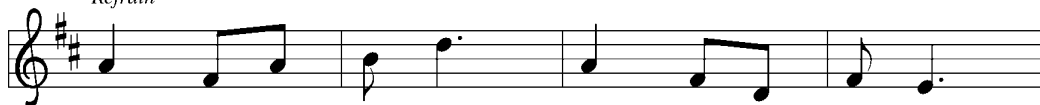


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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Special Acknowledgements and Appreciations

Service Participants

Presiding Minister

*The Reverend Eric Faret
Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church
Clinton, MD*

Soloist

Goin' Home - Mr. Joe Richter

Lectors

*Kevin Chen
Sophia Chen*

Musician

Mr. Joe Richter, Pianist

Tributes and Reflections

Steve Seaquist

Usher

Lorna Reading

Multimedia Presentation

Michelle Collett

Expressions of Gratitude

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for family and friends to donate, in Bruce's memory, Hope Lutheran Church, Clinton, MD. **At Give| Hope Lutheran Church (hopecanton.org) or St. Jude's Children's Hospital 800-805-5856 or sjude.org.**

The Family wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation for your acts of love, kindness and condolences at this time.



Hope Lutheran Church

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To Be God's Loving Presence in a Hurting World

The Reverend Eric B. Faret, Pastor 631-704-8063 pastoreric@hopeclinton.org
Office Hours Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:00-4:00 or by appointment
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A Warm Welcome to Hope Lutheran Church

We are a congregation of the Metropolitan D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

All Are Welcome Here