

THE WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION
and
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
for the life of
Pascal Kossi Edudzi Fiavi
April 15, 1990 – January 29, 2023



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

703.670.7834 fupcdc.org LIKE us on Facebook Find us on Instagram @fupcdc

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org

828.448.8914

THE WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION
and
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
for the life of
Cephas Kossivi Kpegbadza Fiavi
March 14, 1954 – October 16, 2020



THE WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION
and
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
for the lives of

Cephas Kossivi Kpegbadza Fiavi

March 14, 1954 – October 16, 2020

Pascal Kossi Edudzi Fiavi

April 15, 1990 – January 29, 2023

PRELUDE

Adagio Cantabile
Neil Alexander, Organist

J.S. Bach (from Violin Sonata No.3)

WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

+ **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 46:1-3,11*)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Let us worship God.

+ **HYMN**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

834

Precious Lord, take my hand;
lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 37:1-10 NRSV

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Nombreux Comme le Sable des plages

Francis A. Blackmer

Morelle Fokwa, Soloist

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-19 NRSV

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 11:17-27 NRSV

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

Elder Sam Parris

HYMN OF RESPONSE

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

803

**1 My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.**

**In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.**

**He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,**

**and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.**

**2 When I walk through the shades of death
your presence is my stay;**

**one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.**

**Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;**

**my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.**

3 The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

+ CLOSING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

649

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

+ COMMENDATION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Xo Mawu Dzise (Believe in God)

Choeur De L' unite Togolaise, Prisca Agbo, Bright Kekeli Woussou

+ *Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

All are invited to a reception following the service in the Triple Room (Rooms 25, 27, and 29).

Pascal Kossi Edudzi Fiavi

Pascal Kossi Edudzi Fiavi was born on Sunday April 15, 1990 to Cephas and Marcelline Fiavi in Lomé, Togo. As a child, he was passionate about making friends and playing soccer with the other children in the neighborhood. When the family immigrated to the United States in 2001, despite cultural differences and a language barrier, his ability to connect with others did not leave him.

He was an active member in the youth group at First United Presbyterian Church, participating in adventures with other young people, from mission trips to local volunteering projects. He joined the wrestling team at Hylton High School, a sport he participated in all throughout high school and college. More than activities though, it was people that he was drawn to, seeking to both learn and teach. He was also the assistant coach for a girls' soccer team as a high school student.

As a student at York University, he became interested in business and majored in Supply Chain Management. Between summers, he also worked at various places including Atomic Bounce, where he transported bounce houses to birthday parties and events. After his studies, he found employment at Hershey's where he worked his way up to Supervisor of Supply Logistics.

More than anything though, he loved people. His college wrestling team remembers him fondly. His friends speak highly of him and those who have met even just once talk about the impact he has left on them. His ultimate dream, in working hard, was to take care of his family, especially his mother whom he loved dearly.

Pascal passed away on Sunday, January 29, 2023 in a fatal car accident in Stuarts Draft, VA but he lived his life full of vitality and joy. He will be terribly missed by his mother Marcelline, his sister Makafui and his girlfriend Danielle and many, many other loving family members and friends.

Cephas Kossivi Kpegbadza Fiavi

Cephas Kossivi Kpegbadza Fiavi was born in Bagbé, Togo on March 14, 1954, to Togbui Fiave and Novidonou Azameti.

Cephas completed his studies in Togo and pursued a Master in Archival Science in Senegal. For almost 20 years, he worked at the Togolese Ministry of Planning in the Archives department. When the family immigrated to the United States in 2001, he worked part-time as a Library Assistant as he completed his masters in Business Administration at Stratford University.

Cephas will forever be remembered by his three loves: love of books, love of God and love of people, especially the youth.

In Togo, outside of his professional endeavors, he took part in several national and international initiatives to promote literacy and development in rural areas. His dream was to set up a mobile library bus after retirement to facilitate youth reading programs in rural areas of Togo.

He was also an active member of the Evangelical Presbyterian church of Togo, having served as the president of elders in his home congregation as well as the president and training coordinator of children's ministries leaders and Sunday school teachers in the southern region of Togo. He mentored many young people, and along with his spouse served as godparents and mentors to many newlyweds. He was quick to share his love of God with all, especially children. His favorite song to teach children was "Jesus Loves Me".

Although a reserved person, he was known by all he considered his community. His warm and kind personality was known and often remarked upon by others at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale city, his home church in Virginia. His welcoming and encouraging nature as well as the passion with which he completed his work is often remarked upon by co-workers at Westminster at Lake Ridge, where he worked for almost 15 years. Fellow members of the Association of Togolese people in the DMV area (ASTO-DMV) continue to note the wise and thoughtful way in which he spoke and conducted himself.

Cephas passed away on October 16, 2020 from complications from COVID and is survived by his wife Marcelline and his daughter Makafui and many other loving family members and friends.



The entire Fiavi and Missode-Duvo family would like to thank you immensely for your sympathy, prayers, support, and comfort during this difficult time in our lives. We deeply appreciate your expression of love and we are grateful for friends like you at this time of sorrow. We pray the Good Lord will take each and every one of you safely to your various destinations. Once again, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.