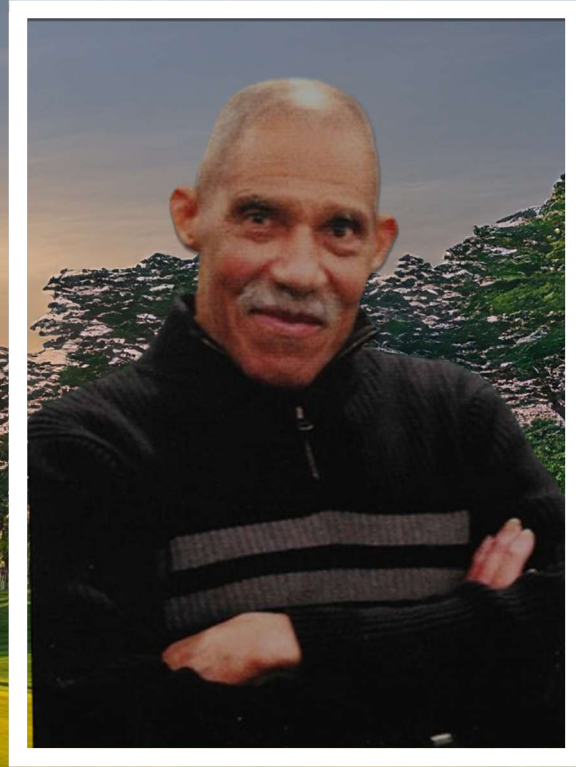


Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



CECIL

Harris Griffith, Jr.

1:00 PM | 03.29.2025 | St. George's Episcopal Church | 7010 Glenn Dale Road | Glenn Dale, MD | 20769

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the gift of His saints." Psalms 116:15

— *This Man Made a Difference* —

OBITUARY FOR CECIL H. GRIFFITH, JR.

Cecil H. Griffith, Jr. transitioned to glory on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the age of 80. He was an honorable man who lived as a model of love, devotion, kindness, integrity, and perseverance. Cecil was born to the late Cecil Harris Griffith, Sr. and the late Sadie Mae (Smith) Griffith on November 29, 1944 in Raleigh, North Carolina. His close-knit family embodied the principles of strong emotional support, a sense of belonging, and resilience. Cecil was educated in the public schools of Raleigh, North Carolina. Upon graduation from J. W. Ligon Junior-Senior High School in 1962, he became an “Aggie” at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. While at college, he met Cynthia Kirk, who would eventually become his wife for over fifty-six years. Their union was blessed with two loving children. The Bachelor of Arts degree he received in 1969 led to a productive career as an industrial arts teacher with Prince George’s County Public Schools for over thirty-five years. “Mr. Griff” taught woodworking along with other industrial skills, but he also dedicated himself to increasing his students’ knowledge of character traits such as resilience, tolerance, teamwork, honesty, and many others that might lead them to become the “agents for change” we want to see in the world. Aside from teaching, Cecil owned a very successful carpentry business that provided commendable general services to homeowners. During his leisure time, he enjoyed golfing, watching movies, and traveling. Cecil was a god-fearing man. In his younger days, he attended Davie Street Presbyterian Church. He was also affiliated with Epiphany Episcopal Church and, most recently, St. George’s Episcopal Church. Later in life, Cecil courageously battled a lengthy and debilitating illness that he faced with grace, surrounded by the love and care of his family. Though the disease may have taken his memory, it failed to take his essence. The big infectious smile, gentle demeanor, and joy he brought to others remained ever-present. Left to treasure his memory are: his wife - Cynthia K. Griffith; daughter - Tonya (Mark); son - Cecil III (“Buddy”); grandchildren - Mark Jr., Michael, Malachi, Matthew, Lauren, and Cecil IV; sister - Cecelia Dennis (William); aunt - Ernestine Bostic; brother-in-law - Richard Kirk (Sandra); sisters-in-law - Gloria Monk (Bobby) and Ethel Hicks; daughter-in-law Terry Griffith; and a host of other close relatives and friends. As we bid our final farewell to Cecil, we are comforted by the strength of a legacy that will continue to sustain us. He is now reunited with those who went before him, resting in eternal peace.

In Thanksgiving for Cecil Griffith

Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #287 For All the Saints verses 1-2, 5-6

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897). Music *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who thee by faith be-
Thou wast their rock, their for - tress and their might; thou Lord, their Cap - tain



- fore the world con - fessed, thy Name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blessed.
in the well - fought fight; thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the ear the
The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west; soon, soon to faith - ful



dis - tant tri - umph song, and hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
war - riors com - eth rest; sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Welcome The Rev. Connie Reinhardt, Rector

Opening Anthem

I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last will stand upon the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God, whom I shall see and my eyes behold,
who is my friend and not a stranger.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!

So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labor.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together: **O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Cecil, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Cecil's family and friends in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 8: 14–19, 34–35, 37–39

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The psalm is read responsively, with the people responding with the verses in bold.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

The One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil and will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Remembrances

Hymn: LEVAS #188 *It Is Well with My Soul*

Words: Horatio Spafford (1828-1888). Music Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876). Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
Though sa - tan should buf - fet though tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
My sin oh the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought My sin not in
And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled
sea bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is
- sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate, And has
part but the whole Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, Praise the
back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - send, "E - ven
well, it is well with my soul. It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.
shed His own blood for my soul.
Lord praise the Lord, O my soul!
so" it is well with my soul.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the people, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily *The Rev. Connie Reinhardt*

After the homily all stand as able as the Celebrant says:

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

The Prayers of the People

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have knit together your people in one communion and fellowship, in the body of your son Christ our Lord: Grant to your whole church in paradise and on earth, your light and your peace. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with Christ to our joyful resurrection. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant us grace to entrust Cecil to your never-failing love; receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor which you have for your people. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly reign. To you O Lord we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Great Spirit of Love, we pray to you for Cecil and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence

Do good works and share what you have, for these are the sacrifices pleasing to God.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Cecil, you can give electronically by texting stgeodragon to 73256, using a web browser to go to onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/give, or donate via Zelle to donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org. Baskets are available at the back of the church for cash or checks. Please put Cecil in the memo line. (*For texts, message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.)*

Offertory Hymn: Gather #492 *Here I am Lord*

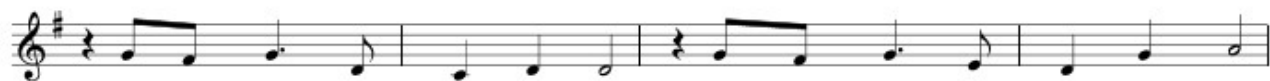
Words and Music: Dan Schutte (b. 1947). © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call - ing in the night.



I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion

Wherever you are in your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, you are welcome to receive the bread and wine. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.

If you would like to come up for a blessing rather than the bread and wine, simply cross your arms to your shoulders to indicate this to the priest.

Please wait in your seat until an usher has directed you to go forward. Once you have received, please exit the Sanctuary following the directions of the ushers. If you receive the wine, please drop your cup into the compost bin at the door after you consume it.

Communion Hymn: LEVAS #154 *Taste and See*

Words: Psalm 34. Music: James E. Moore, Jr. © 1992 G.I.A. Publications. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness
of the Lord. O taste and see, taste and
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall
Glo - ri fy the Lord with me. To - geth er let us
Wor - ship the Lord all you peo ple. You'll want for

al ways be on my lips; my soul shall glo ry in the
all praise his name. I called the Lord and he an - swered
noth - ing if you ask Taste and see that God is

D.C.
Lord; for he has been so good to me.
me; from all my trou bles he set me free.
good; in him we need put all our trust.

Communion Hymn 2: LEVAS #151 *One Bread, One Body*

Words: 1 Corinthians Music: John B. Foley, SJ (b. 1939) © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and New Dawn Music. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all, one cup of bless-ing which we bless. And
we, though man-y, through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.
D.S.
Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free, wo-man or man no more. One
Man - y the gifts, man - y the works, one in the Lord of all. One
Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown, gath-ered to one for all. One

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

All stand as able for the Commendation

The Commendation

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Cecil with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created us, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Cecil. 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.**

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

During the postlude, all are invited to proceed to the parish hall for a reception.

Participants in the Service

<i>Readers</i>	<i>Gloria Monk, Ethel Hicks</i>
<i>Remembrances</i>	<i>Mark Jr., Michael, Malachi, Lauren</i>
<i>Music Ministers</i>	<i>Ken Kepler, emma hadley, Karen Horrocks, Michael Mangiapane, Ed Neuschler, Ali Oliver-Krueger, Ames Perry, Ian Richardson, Dale Rose, Joyce Rose, Lee Rowe, Germaine Stodart</i>
<i>Lay Eucharistic Minister</i>	<i>Jocelyn Tidwell</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Zulma Santiago, Madison Brady, Roseline Fraser, Margaret McHale, Dan Ryan, Rosa Soliz, Luella Tabor</i>
<i>Tech</i>	<i>Michael Mangiapane, Roy Peterson, Julie Gordon</i>
<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Ken Kepler</i>
<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>The Rev. Connie Reinhardt</i>

— Poems of Comfort and Hope —

Remember Me



To the living, I am gone.
To the sorrowful, I will never return.
To the angry, I was cheated,
But to the happy, I am at peace,
And to the faithful, I have never left.
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.



So, as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea - remember me.
As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand majesty - remember me.
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity - remember me.
Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, your memories of the times we loved,
the times we cried, the times we fought, the times we laughed.
For if you always think of me, I will never be gone.

MARGARET MEADE

Your Smile

Though your smile is gone forever
And your hand we cannot touch
Still we have so many memories
Of the ones we loved so much.
Your memory is our keepsake
With which we'll never part
God has you in His keeping
We have you in our hearts.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Acknowledgments

As we gather on this day to honor and remember our beloved Cecil, we offer our deepest gratitude for your presence and support. We are truly blessed to have you in our lives. Your comforting words, warm embraces, shared memories, and other acts of kindness have helped us to find peace and comfort during our time of sorrow, and they are a testament to Cecil's legacy of love and kindness. We are especially grateful to family, friends, church community, and all caregivers who helped him have the best possible quality of life during his long illness. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being here as we bid our last farewell to a virtuous man who is loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure.

— The Griffith Family

THE MEASURE OF A MAN

Not "How did he die?" But "How did he live?"
Not "What did he gain?" But "What did he give?"
These are the units to measure the worth
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.
Not "What was his station?" But "Had he a heart?"
And "How did he play his God-given part?"
Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer,
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?"
Not "What was his church?" Nor "What was his creed?"
But "Had he befriended those really in need?"
Not "What did the sketch in the newspaper say?"
But "How many were sorry when he passed away?"



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Bowie, MD
20715

