

Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and

I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

*You are invited to join the family for a time of fellowship
and refreshments in the Narthex
immediately following the service.*

Are you mourning the death of a loved one or a friend?

Grief Workshop

If you are struggling with the loss of a loved one during this challenging time, you don't have to journey alone. The Grief Workshop is a great way to grow toward health and wholeness from a Christian perspective. In this seven-week workshop, you'll learn tools for dealing with loss, share your own story and hear from others who understand—all in an emotionally safe environment. Our next workshop begins in the spring.

Help for the Holiday Blues

"Learning to Hope and Cope in the Midst of Loss" is for those who may find the holidays a difficult time. Offered on Monday, November 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

One on One Encouragement and Support

Our Stephen Ministers are highly trained individuals who are available to listen, offer support and walk alongside those experiencing seasons of loss. They're available to meet for an hour a week by phone or at a place that's mutually convenient.

Prayer

A group prays for concerns. Please email to prayer@firstprescos.org.

For more information, call our Caring Ministries Office, 884-6145.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Online at firstprescos.org/watch at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

In-person Sanctuary: 8:30 & 10 a.m.

In-person Worship Center: 9 & 11 a.m.



LIGHT AND LIFE FOR THE CITY

Service to Celebrate the Life of John Thomas II

September 16, 1933 – June 11, 2021



Thursday, September 16, 2021 • 10:30 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Order of Service

Prelude

Call to Worship

Hymn, *“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”*

Unison Reading Psalm 23 (KJV)

Prayer of Invocation

Medley: *“Scars”* and *“Go Rest High On That Mountain”*

Remembering John Thomas

Family and Friends Sharing

Celebrating the Life of John Thomas

Solo, *“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Celebrating the Resurrection

Prayer of Commendation

Hymn, *“Amazing Grace!”*

Benediction

Postlude, *“Amazing Grace!”*

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Officiant: Rev. Dr. Pat Hartsock
Soloist: Rev. Matt Holtzman
Organist: Dr. Roderick Gorby
Coordinator: Rev. Linda Boyles

John David Thomas II, born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, son of John Wycoff and Prissy Thomas, passed away June 11, 2021, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

John’s deep love of family and friends brought us glee and laughter. He sang to the Lord with joy. His written legacy of family letters, quips and quotes, and comical photos shows the self-deprecating, young-at-heart attitude that allowed him to conquer polio, childhood family problems, and tragic loss of daughter Deborah.

John learned about cards as a toddler. “Dat’s a Dack, dat’s a Doker.” He became a Life Master at Duplicate Bridge as an adult. At age 9, John edited his grade school’s “Victory News.” Graduating from Classen High School, he won awards for scholarship and in debate and public speaking. He tried out acting with the Mummers. He sang in choir at Westminster Presbyterian Church in OKC.

At the University of Oklahoma, John did not enroll in English or drama or business, but in mathematics. “The lines were shorter,” he quipped. He joined Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He studied math, physics and German, garnering As and honorary awards on his journey: Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Phi Alpha (a German Honorary Society), other honorary organizations, and was one of two state representatives for a Rhodes Scholarship.

To fund his studies, he worked summers and holidays first at Sperry Gyroscope then at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories in Los Alamos, New Mexico. In this Cold War Era, John served his country by working in the testing division. Unable to serve in the military because of post-polio surgery, he dutifully climbed 500-foot towers in Nevada, patting the (fission) atom bomb and telling it to be a “good little bomb and don’t go off until I tell you to.” He also served as Officer Grade Civilian aboard the Boxer in the high altitude (fusion) hydrogen bomb tests off Johnston Island in the Pacific. Letters sent to wife Lana and infant son David expressed his deep love and longing for home and his young family.

After receiving his PhD, John taught two years as a doctoral instructor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and 25 years at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. With peers from NMSU, he taught summer programs at Holloman Air Force Base.

Daughter Katherine, born in Oklahoma City, and daughters Deborah and Patricia, born in Las Cruces, completed John’s family. The family mourned together when Debi died and were blessed when Tricia crawled up into their laps to cuddle. John introduced his family to the nurturing and natural beauty of the Colorado mountains, when they all spent time at a family cabin. They fished, played cards and horseshoes, and went up to the pass to get glacier snow for the ice chest.

John instilled in his children a love of learning and took pride in their successes. He taught Tricia to play Duplicate Bridge. She became the youngest female Life Master. Katherine earned her PhD in English / Technical & Scientific Communication and was nationally recognized for her work in gender and the history of technical communication. John sponsored COMAP international competitions in Mathematical Modeling at NMSU. Son David’s team tied for first place.

John, Tricia and Lana traveled to Dundee, Scotland, when John was on sabbatical leave, sending beautiful letters home to David and Katherine. John and Lana celebrated their 50th anniversary with a grand party at First Presbyterian Church and their most recent (64th) at the Palisades at Broadmoor Park. Wife and children survive, as well as two brothers, many nieces, nephews, cousins and their families.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs or to the Deborah Louise Thomas Memorial Award at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico (<https://bit.ly/DebiFund>).